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APRIL 2015

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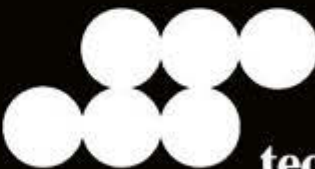


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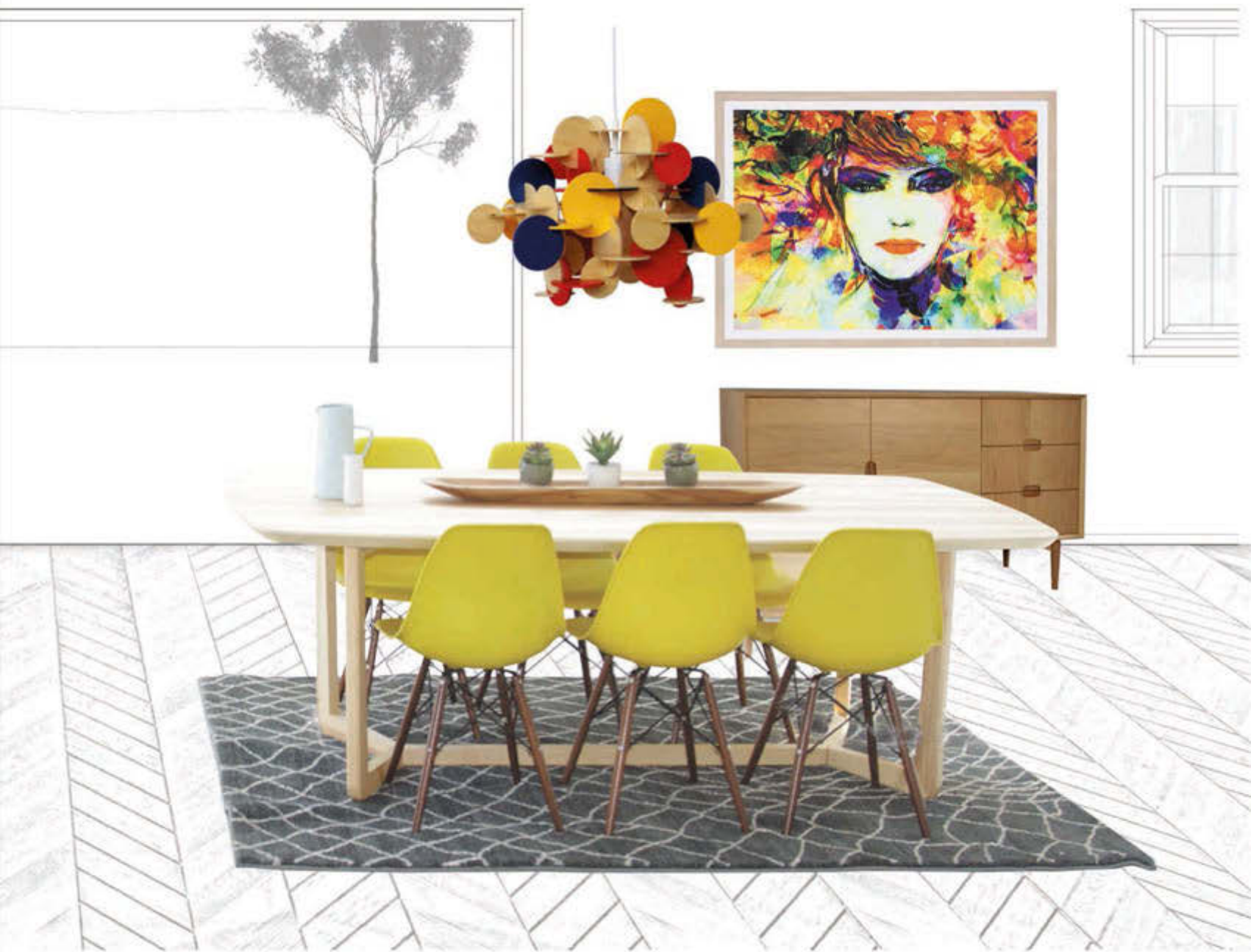
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Use the free **viewa** app and scan this page to see all the cool stuff Deb's discovered this month.



Paper play
Midzommer Moth
lamp, \$198, Lightly.
20cm x 20cm.

Divine combination

I love the Danish and Japanese aesthetics that were combined in this modern home (left) on page 82.



Hand-painted Tiles: Ceramic Modernists "Model 5", top, and Model 25 (both 10.5cm), \$375 a sq m, Tiles Of Ezra.

All you need

Our bonus kitchen and bathroom special (page 157) is chock-a-block with information.

WELCOME

HOW FLIPPIN' COOL are those tiles on the front cover? Actually, the clothes, too. The top, jacket, pants – the whole combination is gorgeous. And that fuchsia sofa is sinful! It's such a classic, but so fierce in colour, and makes everything else in the room work. It's perfectly styled, and guess what? The entire colour palette is stolen from – I mean inspired by – an artist's painting (see page 58 for more).

I'm so thrilled you've come to hang out with us again this month. Or if you're a newbie, welcome. **real living** is not like other home and lifestyle mags. I feel you have to think a little differently to buy this magazine. We love to be daring and confident with interiors – and in each issue we aim to give you tools to help you take the leap to create a home or space that is unique to you, and celebrates YOU and your family. Forget one-size-fits-all interiors! We'll push the boundaries to get you thinking outside the box.

If you've just started out on the renovating and decorating journey, you are going to love, love, love this issue. Interior designer Jacinta Preston has written about 30 things you didn't know about decorating. It's the most fabulous insider guide to the world of interiors. Heads up: open-plan is overrated, and find out the cold hard truth about cushions! Rush to page 110 before you pick up a paintbrush or shop for a single thing. Plus, this issue has a bonus 40-page kitchen and bathroom special, packed with all the latest trends, great buys, a few splurges, style guides, source books and more – it's the perfect planning tool before that renovation or revamp starts.

I hope you enjoy this jam-packed issue, finding a moment to curl up with us. I love that a magazine gives you permission to stop, contemplate, dream and be inspired.

PS Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest are my fave tools for finding YOU out there doing great things, so jump onto our social media and share new buys, DIYs or to say "hello".

Deborah
@deb_bibby

JACINTA PRESTON WRITES ABOUT 30 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT DECORATING – IT'S THE MOST FABULOUS INSIDER GUIDE

Little creatures

Let imaginations run free with a gorgeous Easter feast in the "wild" – flick to page 139.



Organic forms

Ben Medansky
ceramic **bowl**, \$85 (15cm diameter), and Blue Stripe **bottle**, \$110 (15cm high), Third Drawer Down.



Modern theatre

Famous floor **lamp**, \$299, Domayne.
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Art-ful interiors

As Picasso said, "Good artists copy, great artists steal." So be a great artist and steal the look of a favourite interior painting! Flip to page 58 for more covetable creative ideas.

Leafy greens

Bonnie And Neil "Jungle Leaf" cushion in Green (40cm), \$125, Koskela.

On the tiles

Bonnie And Neil "New Tile" cushion in Green (50cm), \$145, Koskela.

Passion for fashion

Caster jacket in Hot Pink, \$699, Camilla And Marc.

Abundant bunch

In Bloom print in Pastel, \$160 unframed, I Need Nice Things. 50cm x 50cm.



Pattern isle

Greg Natale "Corsica" cement tiles, \$120 a sq m, Teranova.

COVER GET THE LOOK

Artists understand colour, form and composition, so for decorating ideas, take your cues from **artworks**

WHY NOT AKE A LEAF OUT OF an artist's (sketch)book when decorating a room? Here, Jeremiah Goodman's painting of US actor Edward Robinson's living room (decorated by Francis Elkins), inspired the hottest pink and leafiest green furnishings, including an arching plant, and the layout. Pretty as a picture! 

Retro return

Jackson 3-seat sofa in Pink, \$1395, Clickon Furniture.

Sitting lightly

Molteni "Grado Tavolino" coffee table, \$2515, Hub Furniture Lighting Living. For stockists, see page 215.

Meticulous art

Bone inlay hexagonal side table in Floral/ Green, \$995, Ruby Star Traders.

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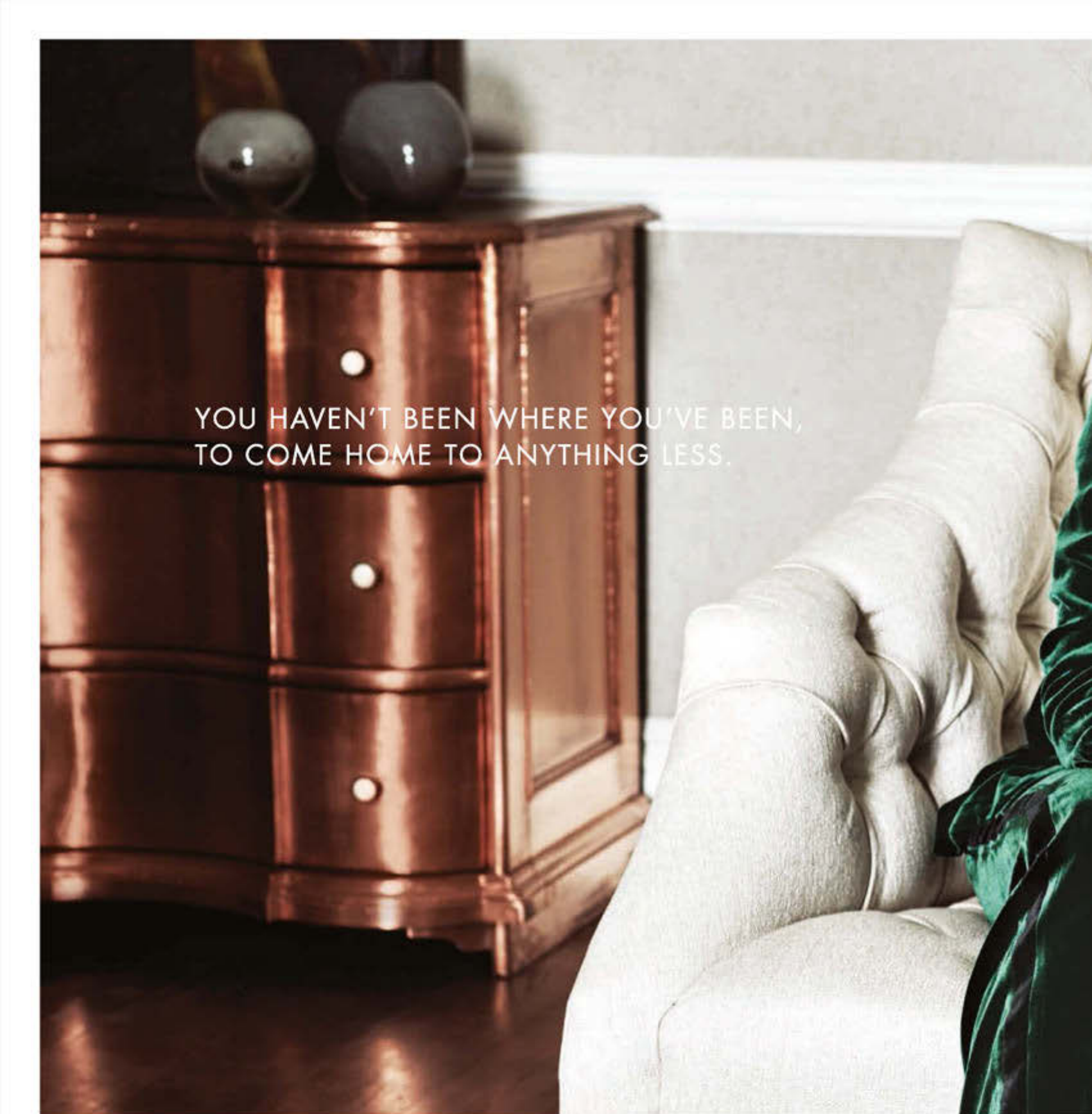
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A photograph of a bedroom interior. On the left is a copper-colored chest of drawers with three drawers, each with a small round knob. Two dark spherical ornaments sit on top. To the right is a tufted beige sofa with a green velvet blanket draped over it. The background is a light-colored wall with a white baseboard.

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BEHIND-THE-SCENES VID

Watch a cute video of our wild things running around on the Easter shoot **p144**

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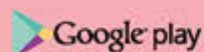
Even more kitchen and bathroom products for you to buy **p195**

ENTER TO WIN

We have \$11,700 worth of kitchen & bathroom products to give away **p196**

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STYLISH, INSPIRATIONAL, CLEVER

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Bird call

A simple feather/driftwood mobile fits in with the more muted palette in the second living space of this beachy home in Victoria. *Flip the page for more inspired spaces...* →



Celebration time

Homeowner Charlotte Pittella sought inspiration from far and wide for the renovation of the ramshackle home, collating a 100-page document in the process. "It was through pictures that I communicated my vision," she explains.

text & styling | simone haag | photography | eve wilson

FRESHLY MINTED

A former lawyer turns her hand to transforming the worst house in the street into a **reinvigorated family beach house**, featuring splashes of the prettiest mint green

Consistency rules

A neutral palette of marine ply, copper and white feature in the kitchen – the bathroom, too – both painted in Dulux “Natural White”. Mint green accessories add a fresh, playful touch. Joinery references a caravan’s sliding doors and cupboards, reminding Charlotte of childhood holidays. →





Original beauty

The shelving was an original feature in the dining area. A door is repurposed as a table. The Väsman chairs are from Ikea, the Madras round rug, Freedom. A CementWood pendant is from Thinkk Studio. House Of Orange made the bench seats.

who lives here?

Charlotte and Simone Pittella,
and children Leonardo, 4, and Ivy, 1

Wearable art Emeldo rope necklaces by Emily Dornbusch, from White Nest, make beautiful wall art in the dining nook.

Valuable exercise With the success of the beach house, among other projects, Charlotte was inspired to set up her interiors business, Charlotte Pittella Interiors. charlottepittellainteriors.com.au



Experiment success

The Smeg fridge – in mint, of course! – is Charlotte's favourite piece in the home. Marine ply was whitewashed to beachy effect – a successful experiment.

KOONYA BEACH HOUSE was a ramshackle shack – although with unlimited potential – when Charlotte Pittella and her husband Simone bought it five years ago, soon after they were married. “It was literally the worst house in the street by a long stretch, but through the peeling paint, dirty tiles and rusty taps we could see the potential – and I fell in love with it immediately,” Charlotte says of the property, which is located on Victoria’s Mornington Peninsula. “Simone has always had a keen interest in property and construction,” she continues.

FAMILY CONNECTION Coincidentally, the beach house sat across the road from Charlotte’s parents’ first marital home – and her older brothers used to play in the vegie patch of “Old Rupe’s Place”, as the beach house was affectionately known. But the connection wasn’t made until well after the ink had dried on the contract.

EARLY IMPROVEMENTS After Charlotte and Simone took possession of the house it was given an initial makeover – a lick of paint, and hardware and flooring was refreshed. “It was simply uninhabitable in its →



Keep calm

"It has a sense of space and serenity that just allows you to unwind," Charlotte says of the entrance. The two-way fireplace is clad with Alpine, a natural granite dry-stone walling material from Eco Outdoor. Totem, Large Orb print by Lisa Lapointe came from Modern Times, Assemblages leather shelves from Lightly. →



purchased state,” Charlotte recalls. Yet despite its dishevelled appearance, it was charming. However, the desire to entertain friends and expand their family meant change was inevitable.

TEAM EFFORT Together with building designer Ray Watts (Rlwattsdesign.com.au), Charlotte conceptualised, planned and project-managed the renovation, which led to the addition of three bedrooms and a rumpus room, and the successful integration of the indoor and outdoor spaces. She also worked closely with builder Tony Gianchino (A&A Home Alterations), making many decisions on site, and in the process, building a great rapport.

FINAL TOUCHES The home has been gradually filled with objects and art, an easy task given the simple coastal palette of plywood, white and copper. Charlotte found much of her inspiration from Nordic trends, and aptly describes the house as “light, bright and serene”. ●



** leather features bring warmth
to the master bathroom*

Simple palette

Marine ply, white and copper features in the bathrooms, too. A Pittella (Charlotte's husband's company) basin is offset with Astra Walker copper taps. The mirror came from Anthropologie.

Natural textures (both below)

"I wanted each bedroom to have a different appeal," Charlotte says. In the "black and white" room the rug came from Freedom, the Ruby Star Traders chair, White Nest.



Bottom of the garden

Artedomus tiles cover the side of the bath and part of the wall. A collection of plants, including pothos, bird's nest fern and monstera, add a vibrant touch. →



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D INTERIOR PAINT

FINISHES

CABINETRY AA grade hardwood **marine plywood** (**A**; 1.22m x 61cm x 9mm), from \$16.29 a panel (unpainted), Bunnings. **CLADDING** Easycraft "EasyVJ" MDF interior wall lining in **Primed** (**B**; 2.4m x 1.2m x 9mm), \$58.98 a panel, Bunnings. **FLOOR TILES** 97704 Mono Hexagonal mosaic in **White** (**C**; 280mm x 270mm), \$113.60 a sq m, Beaumont Tiles. **INTERIOR PAINT** Dulux Wash & Wear in **Natural White** (**D**), \$74.95 for 4L. For stockists, see page 215.



- KEY**
- A** Entrance
 - B** Living area
 - C** Rumpus room
 - D** Dining area
 - E** Bathroom
 - F** Kitchen
 - G** Bedroom
 - H** Deck
 - I** Kids room

Playful hangout

In the rumpus room the Togo settee came from Domo, the rug Freedom and the La De Dah Kids basket (holding cactus) from White Nest.



Cosy corner

"The soft rug and floor cushions invite guests to take up residence," Charlotte says of the larger living space.

Wood metal

Ambient **pendant** in Off White, from \$129 for small, Citta Design. 16cm diameter.

Saddlery aesthetic

Assemblages leather **shelves**, \$330 for pair, Lightly. 1.5m x 31cm.

Fresh is best

Smeg **refrigerator/bottom freezer** in Mint Green (FAB32), \$5690, Smeg.

Battery-operated

Porcelain **lamp**, \$59.99, Typo. 30cm high; requires 3 AAA batteries.

CHARLOTTE'S MOODBOARD

Natural materials mixed with a white backdrop – and mint and copper splashes – for a cool Nordic vibe

Hand-embroidered

Inez chain-stitch **cushion**, \$135, Sage & Clare. 50cm x 35cm.

Indoors or out

Väsmän **chair** in White, \$60, Ikea.

Moroccan-inspired

Kasbah wool **rug**, from \$289, West Elm. 1.52m x 91cm.

Cop-per that!

Icon+ **wall set** with 155mm spout in Copper (A67.05), \$623, Astra Walker.

Fold & store

Carry Me Home tripod **table**, \$399, The Minimalist. Height 60cm; made from metal and leather.

Touch of timber

Rubberwood **bathmat**, \$49.95, Howards Storage World.

Retro look

Enamel Look **mug** in Mint, \$US9 (about \$AU11.50), Amalsroom.com

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*from the floor up.***

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Luxury Vinyl Plank
Design Featured: Scandinavian Country



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UK DESIGNER KONSTANTIN GRCIC CREATED THIS STORAGE SYSTEM FOR MAGIS: A WALL-MOUNTED "SPIKE" G-CLAMP THAT CAN BE FITTED WITH BOARDS (WOOD, METAL, GLASS, MARBLE) TO MAKE A SHELF.



Playful touch
Magis "Spike - The Wild Bunch" shelf bracket, about \$104.25 (plus shipping), Questodesign.com 27cm x 14cm; wood.

Etsy hospitality

A suite in The Cullen Hotel in Prahran, Melbourne, is temporarily styled with products sourced from online marketplace Etsy.



DREAM COME TRUE! ETSY PARTNERS WITH MELBOURNE HOTEL THE CULLEN TO STYLE A SUITE - BY CREATIVES BROOKE HOLM AND MARSHA GOLEMAC, LEFT - WITH ETSY FINDS. SLEEP IN IT APRIL 13 TO 29. ARTSERIESHOTELS.COM.AU/CULLEN/ETSY

FRESH AS A BREEZE: LINEN AND HOMEWARES LABEL IN BED HAS ENLISTED MAISON BALZAC TO CREATE A CANDLE INSPIRED BY THE SCENT OF FRESHLY WASHED SHEETS. THE CLEAN SHEETS CANDLE RETAILS FOR \$49 AT INBEDSTORE.COM



Graphic lines and textures sum up the autumn/winter 2015 collection from COUNTRY ROAD HOME. And for the first time, they've added luxe 100% linen to their BEDLINEN range. Soft pink and grey are paired with yarn-dyed stripes and gingham for a modern addition to the bedroom. Countryroad.com.au



Good night

Tico bedcover, \$249, Meta queen quilt cover in Light Pink, \$349, standard pillowcases, \$79.95 a pair, and Tolko cushion, \$49.95, Country Road.

FAVE FINDS

From G-clamp wall brackets and luxe bedlinen to cute storage and silky scarves, check out the **cool & covetable** finds



Cute as a button

Hay "Bits And Bobs Colour" glass containers, from \$17 for mini (6.5cm x 1.5m); Cult.

AS THE NAME SUGGESTS, HAY'S "BITS AND BOBS" ARE PERFECT FOR STORING ODDS AND ENDS! FIRST AVAILABLE IN CLEAR AND NOW COLOURED LIDDED BOWLS, THEY SUIT PAPERCLIPS, JEWELLERY, BUSINESS CARDS... CULTDESIGN.COM.AU →

DUTCHIE DANNY FANG COMBINES PAPIER MÂCHÉ AND PAPER PULPING TECHNIQUES TO MAKE STRONG BUT LIGHT SALAGO PENDANTS, FOR MOOOL AT SPACE.



Handmade hits
Salago **suspension lamps** in Green, Natural and Dark Blue, from \$1390 for small (34cm diameter), Spacefurniture.com.au

Other worldly

Limited-edition silk **scarves** (1.3m): Asteroid, right, and Zebra Crossing, below, \$269 each, Tiân.



FASHION BRAND **TIÂN** HAS A STYLISTIC APPROACH TO DESIGN, MIXING ARTISTIC AND PHOTOGRAPHIC ELEMENTS WITH BOLD COLOURS, DARING SHAPES AND RICH TEXTURES IN ITS SILKY DESIGNS. TIANSTUDIOS.COM



Table that

Base **table** in Grey from \$1699 for small (seats four), Muuto. 1.4m x 80cm; three sizes and four colours available. Stockists at Muuto.com



FAVE FINDS

and some **more...**



Character plus

Sprutt **cabinet** with drawers, \$149, Ikea. 68cm x 30cm.

*It's super-functional and modern – it's Ikea's new **SPRUTT** collection, featuring storage, organisers and accessories. Cabinets, baskets, trolleys knob racks... Ikea.com.au*

BACK TO BASE

Fabulous **Muuto** has launched a simple but detailed **Base** table, perfect for home or office. Slim, lightweight and strong, it features a metal frame and laminate or linoleum top with ABS or plywood edges. There are three sizes and four colours to choose from.

DENIM DUDES

Palm Beach Black

makes homewares from **recycled denim**, with each piece handpicked and reworked into something new. Palmbeachblack.com



Recycle upcycle

FROM TOP **Cushions** (50cm): Blue Jacket Boy, \$89, Son-Of-A-Gun, \$149, and Moby soft **toy**, from \$69 for small (50cm x 30cm), Palm Beach Black. ●

Everyday Chores



Every dish, scrape and plate
Every knife, fork and spoon
Every stack and unpack

Designed For Everyday Living

haier.com.au

Haier





Designer



Classic



WHAT'S YOUR STYLE?

At World of Style by Porter Davis we believe your home is the ultimate way to express yourself. Your style is not merely measured by the colour of your walls and carpet, it's an expression of what's important to you and can be conveyed in many different ways. Your background, family, culture or the places you have seen and captured in photos or treasures you have collected in your travels will all have a bearing on your personal sense of style. Ultimately, every journey is unique and reflects a little bit of you.

Some people already have a definite opinion of what their style is, others are not so sure and more than a few people see themselves as eclectic and crossing over a few different types of styles.

If you're not sure about your own personal style we've developed a fun and easy interactive style quiz that you can take online to help you find out what works for you.

The World of Style quiz helps you choose between 4 overarching styles, of Classic, Resort, Contemporary and Designer and within each of these styles there are 16 themes. Take the quiz today; you might just surprise yourself.

porterdavis.com.au/style-quiz

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REGISTER AT WORLDOFSTYLE.COM**



THE BAR IS MADE FROM CUSTOM-MADE JAPANESE CLAY BLOCKS THAT ARE STACKED TO GREAT EFFECT.



found it!

Timber treatment

American White Oak **veneer** on plywood (1.2m x 60cm), \$37.95, Plyco.com.au
Check out Tokonoma at 44 Bridge Street, Sydney, 2000. (02) 9251 8185.
www.tokonoma-sydney.com

TOKONOMA
RESTAURANT / SYDNEY

SPACE CRUSH

Handpainted wall murals and **carefully curated** pieces set this cool restaurant apart

"THE DESIGN OF THE VENUE IS INSPIRED BY ANDO HIROSHIGE'S BOOK, *ONE HUNDRED FAMOUS VIEWS OF EDO*," SAYS OWNER MATT YAZBEK. "Once our designer Matt Darwon brought this to us, everything came together very quickly." Three images of Tokyo from the book have been handpainted onto the walls of the restaurant.



JARS ARE FILLED WITH SHOCHU, A JAPANESE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE, AND VARIOUS FRUITS AND VEGETABLES. "THIS PROCESS TAKES ABOUT TWO TO THREE MONTHS BEFORE THE TONICS ARE READY TO DRINK," MATT SAYS.

"OUR GOAL WAS TO UTILISE THE BASEMENT OF THE HERITAGE-LISTED BUILDING AND CREATE AN ANCIENT STRUCTURE THAT FEELS LIKE IT HAS BEEN THERE FOR ALL OF TIME." @

spotted it!



Glaze over (left)
The crockery was sourced from Japan, while the glassware is from Italy and Germany.
Below The entrance is inspired by Kinbaku or Japanese rope binding.



CREATE THE BEST START...

What you feed yourself and your baby in the first 1000 days is critical for setting your baby up for a healthy life.

Like all interior design projects, preparation and planning is key. It's the same with pregnancy. Early-life Nutritional Programming (ENP) shows that the first 1000 days of a baby's life, from conception, through pregnancy, infancy and up to toddlerhood, offer a unique window of opportunity to shape their future. Knowing that, good nutrition in early life can lead to positive health outcomes in later life.

Be organised

Once you fall pregnant then you can start thinking about your baby's room – remember newborn babies love interesting things to look at.



Keep hydrated

Ginger tea with lemon is great for morning sickness and keeping hydrated.



Calming space

Decorate your nursery with calming colours to encourage rest and relaxation. Neutrals and pastels are perfect.



Balanced diet

Start your day with a nutritional breakfast and try to incorporate as many fruit and veggies as you can, as part of a well balanced diet.

AT MOST 20% OF YOUR BABY'S FUTURE HEALTH IS DETERMINED BY THEIR DNA. AS FOR THE OTHER 80% OR SO, THAT'S DETERMINED BY ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING LIFESTYLE AND NUTRITION, SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN INFLUENCE

THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT CAN HELP SHAPE YOUR BABY'S LONG-TERM HEALTH

Foetal life, infancy and childhood are a time of rapid growth and development that requires the right nutrition and lifestyle.

By eating healthily during the pre-conception and pregnancy stage, you can help support your baby's brain development and immune system, help to influence your baby's metabolism and set your baby up for a healthy start in life.

With Early-life Nutritional Programming you can help give your child the best possible start for a healthier future.

Learn more about the first 1000 days and Early-life Nutritional Programming, visit danonenutricia.com.au/ENP



**DANONE
NUTRICIA**
Early Life Nutrition



@ELLERYLAND is a land we'd love to live in!
Fashion designer Kim Ellery is all about feminine
shapes and billowing fabrics... mmm

WHAT'S HAPPENING
ON THE 'GRAM

INSTA INSPIRE

Here are some of our **fave people**
and brands on Instagram

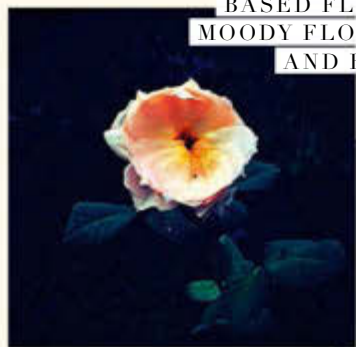


@CURATED_BY FASHION? TICK! INTERIORS? TICK! CUTE PICTURES OF KIDS
IN SUPER-STYLISH OUTFITS? YES! THANKS FOR PUTTING ALL OF OUR FAVOURITE
THINGS IN ONE PLACE. PS: TABLE DISPLAY #TODIEFOR



@SIBELLACOURT Eclectic, rustic and ocean-inspired themes define interior stylist Sibella Court's IG feed. Snapped is her warehouse shop in St Peters, NSW – The Society Inc.

@DOCTORCOOPER SYDNEY-BASED FLORIST AND ARTIST: MOODY FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ROSES ABOUND



@GVMMA 18-year-old Gemma Topliss from Melbourne creates evocative sketches and prints. This one is titled Forest Girl.



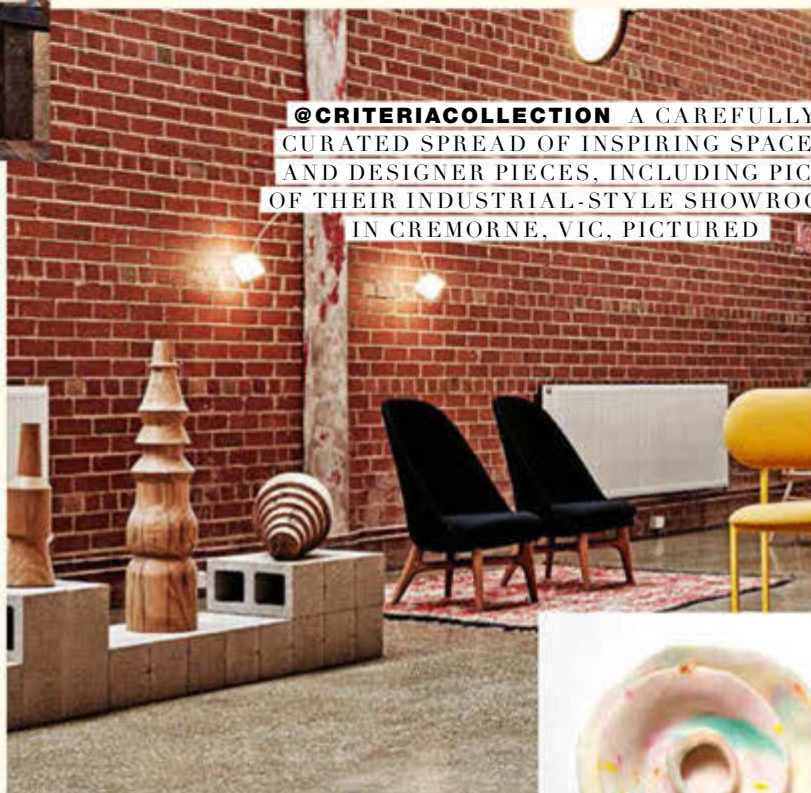
@SOUDABROOKLYN FEAST YOUR EYES ON A FEED OF MOORISH METALLICS AND ORGANIC SHAPES. FURNITURE, LIGHTING AND PIECES FOR THE HOME STRAIGHT OUT OF THE BIG APPLE. 🍷



@BRETTSHOTWHAT Photographer Brett Stevens finds beauty in simplicity. Above: Scripps Pier in San Diego, CA.

loving

@CRITERIACOLLECTION A CAREFULLY CURATED SPREAD OF INSPIRING SPACES AND DESIGNER PIECES, INCLUDING PICS OF THEIR INDUSTRIAL-STYLE SHOWROOM IN CREMORNE, VIC, PICTURED



@KLEINANDSCHON Unique, delicate, pretty. Check out these handmade bowls, cups and jewellery pieces made from polymer clay and resin.



@BARNABY_LANE FOR THE SCANDI-LOVERS OUT THERE – A COLLATION OF SWEET PASTELS, BLONDE TIMBER AND LUSTWORTHY LEATHER. SWOON!



The MD desk range

With its minimal style, clean lines and attention to detail, the MD desk range is excellent value for money for both home and office. It comes in a range of elements and sizes – with accessories, wire management, privacy screens, modesty panels and storage units. The steel frame is powdered coated in various colours, with tops of melamine, glass or timber veneer.

Designed by Aerotec



Offset top coffee table

Made from powder coated metal – Available in black & white, with optional colours of silver, red, yellow, orange and blue – Height 510 Diam 500.

Designed by Robert Owen



675 Chair

A design that has truly stood the test of time. The 675 chair is one of the most recognized of the Twentieth Century. The chair's most prominent feature is its curved oak-veneer plywood back, legs are chrome with black leather seat.

Designed by Robin Day



Zebra barstool

With frame in steel and seat in coloured pu leather – the steel frame can be chromed, or powder coated in black white and red, the seat is available in matching pu leather. Overall height 740, height to top of seat 650, width 455, depth 440.

Designed by Aerotec



Four poster bed

Our modern take on the traditional Four poster bed sees an elegant black powder coated steel frame run into a bold slatted bedhead, complete with fabric awning in natural colour. The Four poster bed will make a statement in any bedroom Queen size only. Mattress not included.

Designed by Aerotec

MELBOURNE
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sales@aerodesigns.com.au

SYDNEY
479–493 Bourke Street
Surry Hills
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Aero DESIGNS

LOCALS ONLY

Using traditional crafts and wool from her family's farm, Grace Wood creates **dreamy, sustainable textiles**

I AM A DESIGNER-MAKER – I design and hand-make felt textiles and turn them into cushion covers, bedcovers, blankets, table runners, throws and wall hangings.

MY STUDIO IS in the Blue Mountains, NSW. It's a Timbercrete passive-solar space in the bush which has an unobstructed view of Sydney. I have big baskets full of different rare fleeces as well as dye pots and fibres that I have dyed with natural plant dyes. It is quiet and peaceful, and very conducive to creative work.

I CREATE MY FELT using wool from my family's farm. Felting is the oldest textile tradition in the world. It requires water, soap, agitation and lots of elbow grease. The wool is pulled into tufts and layered vertically then horizontally in even layers on top of bubble wrap. The wool is then

wetted down, covered in bubble wrap, then rubbed and rolled. To finish, it is "shocked" by moving it from very hot to very cold water, then thrown onto a hard surface – this causes the wool to shrink and the fibres to lock and bond together.

MY MAIN SOURCES of inspiration are travel and the natural environment – the bush, the sea, the moon. I recently completed a range of limited-edition cushions for Longitude 131 inspired by a trip to Uluru. Music also helps me to get in the right creative headspace – I'm listening to a lot of Kurt Vile and The War On Drugs.

IN THE FUTURE I'd like to work with architects and interior designers to create large-scale textile installations and art pieces for public, commercial and residential spaces. ●

BLUE MOUNTAINS
GRACE WOOD
DESIGNER
TEXTILE



ONE
Burnt Bush **bedcover**, from \$599 for single. Merino wool, silk and linen; also comes in a throw.



TWO
Cushions, from \$99 each for 40cm x 40cm. Merino wool and silk; 6 sizes available.



THREE
Cosy **cup**, \$139 (includes Tasmanian blackwood base, not shown). Porcelain cup and felt cosy.

[ABOUT GRACE]

A LITTLE BIT CLASSIC,
A LITTLE BIT VINTAGE, A LITTLE
BIT WHIMSICAL IS HOW GRACE
DESCRIBES HER PERSONAL
STYLE, WHICH IS
REFLECTED IN HER WORK.
GRACEWOODDESIGNS.COM



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  #bedbathtable

BED BATH N' TABLE



[Castillo]

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Chefs on board

Book: *Planet To Plate: The Earth Hour Cookbook* (WWF-Australia, \$49.99) is available online at Earthhour.org.au/cookbook



Into the deep

Andy's favourite colour is Mediterranean blue.

Inspo hits

Andy Ridley, pictured, says he finds inspiration in nature, music, experience, wine and family.



ANDY RIDLEY

CO-FOUNDER OF EARTH HOUR

WHO ARE YOU?

Find out what makes our favourite creatives tick

CO-FOUNDER OF EARTH HOUR, ANDY RIDLEY

WHEN HE WAS A KID, ANDY WANTED TO BE A MARINE BIOLOGIST LIKE JACQUES COUSTEAU, THEN AS HE GREW, TO WORK ON PROJECTS SUCH AS LIVE AID. IN 2007 HE CO-FOUNDED EARTH HOUR, A CAMPAIGN FOR ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, WHICH IS NOW A GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT.

EARTHHOUR.ORG.AU

Where did you grow up? Tell us a little about your family? "I grew up in Norfolk in rural England. I have two families – my family in rural England and my wife's family in rural Queensland. It's amazing how thousands of miles means so little in terms of attitude."

How did Earth Hour start?

"My team in WWF [World Wildlife Fund] came up with the basic lights-out idea based on an energy-saving campaign in Bangkok. After that, there were many moments and people that made the idea come alive. Eight years later it was in 7000 cities."

What are you currently working on?

"Earth Hour Australia is working with farmers and well-known Aussie chefs to highlight the impact of global

warming on food and farming locally. I'm now working on a campaign to reduce demand for ivory in Southeast Asia, while developing social impact projects in Mexico in addition to a very cool circular economy project."

What would you give as a gift?

"Our new *Planet To Plate* cookbook, a collection of 52 recipes by top Aussie chefs, which uniquely highlights the impact of global warming on Aussie farmers and the food they produce."

Your favourite quote? "This week it is: 'Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.' Winston Churchill."

Who are your creative influences?

"Weird though this may sound, from a design perspective it is car design. From a creative perspective, music."

Artwork you love? "Wassily Kandinsky's *Farbstudie Quadrate*."

Most treasured item? "Once you have kids, nothing else comes close."

What quality do you admire most in other people? "Humour."

Your favourite holiday destination?

"Okavango Delta, Botswana."

Where do you see yourself in five years' time? "Africa." 🌍

Earth Hour takes place 8.30pm to 9.30pm local time, Saturday March 28.

Fave homeware

Andy loves the Herman Miller "Goetz" sofa.



Insta life To see "things" that he really enjoys, follow Andy on Instagram: [Instagram.com/earthhourandy](https://www.instagram.com/earthhourandy)

Climate action

On March 28, 2014, in more than 160 countries, householders switched off their lights to help change climate change.



Essential accessory

Andy's fave sunnies are Oakley "TinCan".



Sisal
with
Leather

Sisal
with
Wool

Sisal
with
Leather

Sisal
with
Wool

Pure
Sisal

Sisal
with
Leather

Sisal
with
Linen

Pure
Sisal

pure sisal,
sisal & wool
and more...
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NFC 57

CONTEMPORARY DINNER PARTY

In this issue, **real living** stylist Jackie Brown has teamed up with **Super Amart** to demonstrate how to set up the perfect contemporary dinner party for Easter



What's the starting point for setting up a contemporary dinner party?

Firstly, you need a fabulous dining table as your feature centrepiece accompanied by stylish and comfy chairs – the kind that make your guests relax and settle in for great food and conversation. Here, I've achieved the contemporary feel by teaming cool black chairs with a timber-style table.

What are the key furniture pieces for the look? As well as the dining setting, a sideboard

or buffet is an important piece to have in the room. Not only can you use it as storage for all your dinnerware or wine etc, you can use it as a serving area or simply a space to display a beautiful Easter dessert.

So, how about the table setting? For a contemporary look, I like to keep things casual with a stack of plates and bundle of cutlery rather than traditional individual place settings. It gets people interacting as they pass the dinnerware around. Similarly, position the food along the

SHOP THE LOOK IN STORE NOW OR ONLINE AT SUPERAMART.COM.AU

Top row: Silverwood 2100 dining table, \$649. Scarlett glass candy jar, \$44.95. Diamond vase, \$24.95. Bottom row: Lennox vase, \$44.95. Glebe dining chair, \$69.95. Silverwood



table and let everyone help themselves – it gives a more casual and relaxed feel.

And the décor? At a dinner party, beautifully presented food can act as part of the décor. Fill glass vessels, platters, cake stands and bowls with an assortment of delicious treats. By varying the heights you create a tablescape that leads the eye around the space. Also, no dinner party is complete without candles, but you don't have to put them in the centre of the table. Here, I've placed them on the buffet so they'll cast a lovely glow, but won't get in the way of the food.



a real living *Super Amart* solution

DO MORE WITH LESS JACKIE SHARES HER TOP TIPS TO ACHIEVE THE PERFECT LOOK FOR A CONTEMPORARY EASTER DINNER PARTY

- Bowls of fruit, nuts and other little snacks are an affordable way to add colour and decorative interest to the table.
- Don't use a tablecloth – a bare table is more modern – but do use fabric napkins for that “special occasion” feel.
- Create a vignette on the buffet with artworks, flowers and candles in a colour scheme that goes with your table setting.



IN THE
NEXT ISSUE:
Brooklyn Style Boudoir



Shop now at superamart.com.au

HANDY WOMAN

Transform some copper pipe and plywood into a **handy side table**. Here's how...

△ project cost \$86.60

PROJECT Copper-pipe side table

Step 1 Use tape measure and Sharpie to measure and mark copper pipe into eight lengths. You will need: 2 x 60cm lengths, 2 x 45cm lengths and 4 x 30cm lengths.

Step 2 Carefully cut pipe at marked points using pipe cutter. Note: you may need to secure pipe to workbench with G-clamps.

Step 3 On the floor, create a "U" shape with one 45cm length and two 30cm lengths. Apply Liquid Nails to insides of two copper elbows then connect pipe lengths with elbows.

Step 4 Apply glue to two more copper elbows and attach to top of "U" shape so elbow is pointing up. Insert 60cm lengths into elbow so they are standing vertically. Note: you can lean the structure against the wall so it doesn't topple over.

Step 5 Repeat "Step 3" with remaining copper lengths. Attach "U" shape to other end of the 60cm lengths. Allow glue to dry.

Step 6 Use handsaw to cut plywood into a rectangle: 60cm x 40cm. Or have your local hardware store cut it to size for you.

Step 7 Place plywood on floor and stand copper piping on top. Secure copper pipe to plywood using drill, screws and saddle clips. (See picture below.) Flip table the right way around and move it to wherever you please. ●

PROJECT To make one copper pipe side table we used 3 x 1.5m-lengths of **copper pipe**, \$16 each, 8 x Kinetic copper capillary **elbows**, \$2.50 each, 6 x Kinetic copper pipe **saddle clips**, \$9.68 for 10 pack, and **plywood sheet** (1.2m x 45cm x 1.6cm), \$12.85, Bunnings.

THE REST Boden **armchair** in Light Beige, \$450, Yellow Bungalow. Ikea PS **cabinet**, \$199, and Ranarp **floor lamp**, \$69, Ikea. **ON ARMCHAIR** Castle "Penny" velvet **cushion cover** in Pink, \$49, Koskela. **ON CABINET** Vogue Cover Paris Charlotte Casiraghi **print**, \$90 unframed, Home & Abode. Assorted **books** from Books Kinokuniya. Small resin liquid **vase** in Black, \$95, Dinosaur Designs; holding **peony**. **ON SIDE TABLE** MacBook Air **laptop**, from \$1099, Apple. **ON FLOOR** Carrie heels in Black/White, \$149.95, Skin Shoes. **Magazines** from newsagent. **WALL PAINT** Taubmans Endure Interior in **Pollyanna**, \$61.90 for 4L. For stockists, see page 215.



You will need

- Tape measure
- Sharpie
- Copper pipe, elbows & saddle clips
- G-clamps
- Pipe cutter
- Selleys Liquid Nails
- Handsaw or drop saw
- Plywood
- Drill & screws

Interior insights

Weylandts and **real living** invite readers to get up close and personal with the latest range at an exclusive night of all things interiors at their flagship Melbourne showroom

EVENT DETAILS...

DATE:

Thursday 16th April, 2015.

TIME:

6:30pm – 8:30pm.

ADDRESS:

Weylandts Showroom
200 Gipps Street
Abbottsford, Melbourne 3067.

PARKING:

Free undercover parking available on site, accessible via Harper Street off Nicholson Street.

*This event is limited to 60 guests. The first 60 people to register will be contacted. To register, email your name, contact number and requested number of guests (maximum 3 guests) to weylandts@bauer-media.com.au. Allocation of tickets will be provided via email.

Q & A WITH INDUSTRY EXPERTS



Deb Bibby

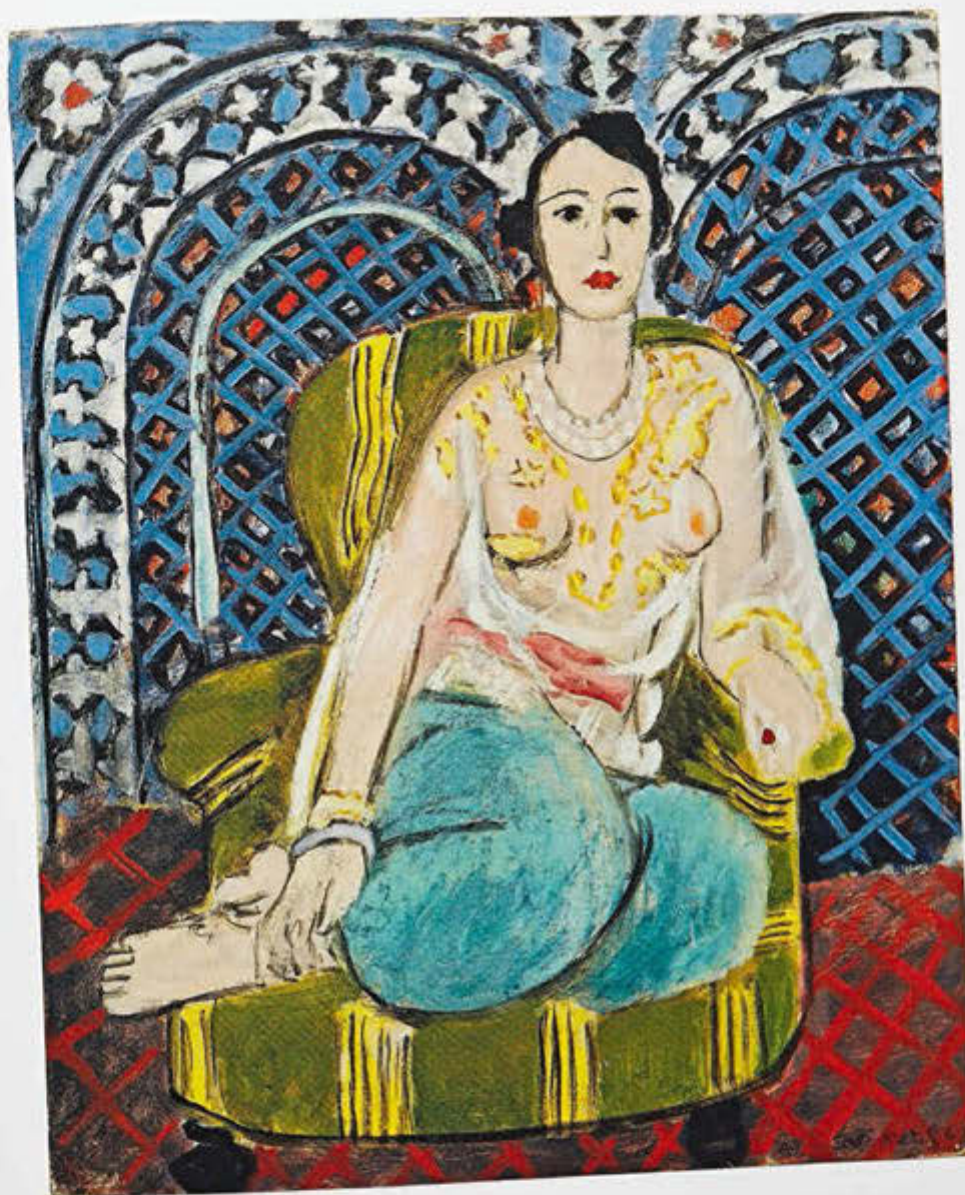
Love decorating? Join us for an intimate evening hosted by **real living** editor-in-chief Deb Bibby who will provide industry insights into current interior and exterior trends. There will be a Q&A session, as well as an opportunity to meet and greet afterwards. Guests will be treated to Maison wine from the Weylandt family's vineyard in South Africa, and delectable canapés served by the in-house kitchen. You'll be able to shop up a storm with special discounts on the night, and then when you're ready to head home you'll leave with a fabulous goodie bag, too! Places are limited, so be quick to register your details for this evening of interiors and indulgence.

For more information, inspiration and ideas visit weylandts.com.au

WEYLANDTS

beautiful spaces

In need of inspiration? **Turn to art** for creative ways to decorate your home



Henri Matisse

(French, 1869–1954)

Post-impressionist

Fauve painter

Sitting Odalisque, 1926

Oil on canvas

PHOTO BY SPENCER 119

Ottoman empire

Moroccan wedding rug studded **sofa** in Indigo/Charcoal, \$2950, Ruby Star Traders. Ikea PS **cabinet** in Blue, \$199, Ikea. Rio geometric **side table** in Sky (at front), \$380, Globe West. Studio wire **side table** in Duck Egg, \$199, Life Interiors. **Foliage** from Hermetica Flowers. **ON SOFA** Monte **cushion**, \$75, Pampa. Shilo Engelbrecht **cushion** (just seen), \$295, Spence & Lyda. **ON CABINET** FROM LEFT Medium Liquid **vase** in Copper (holding flowers), \$85, Dinosaur Designs. *Romance* silver foil **print** (45cm x 64cm), \$119.95, Blacklist. Tom Dixon "Water" **candle**, \$149, Collector Store. Small Cloud **bowl** in Copper, \$70, and Tall resin Shell Wrap **vase** in Moody Blue Swirl, \$280, Dinosaur Designs. **ON SIDE TABLES** WorShip **clutch**, \$85, Poppy Lissiman. Brokis "Balloons" small **table light**, \$1375, Spence & Lyda. **ON WALL** *Intersection* **print** in Blue (1m x 70cm), \$160 unframed, I Need Nice Things. Azulejos "No.8" **wallpaper**, \$123.50 a lineal m (1.25m wide), Emily Ziz Style Studio. **WALL PAINT** Porter's Paints low sheen acrylic in **Bodice**, \$95.10 for 4L. **ON FLOOR** Monte Vibrant #4 **rug**, \$2490, Pampa. Melon **ottoman** in Tribal/Blue/Black, \$475, Ruby Star Traders. **CAROLINE WEARS** Tribal State maxi **dress**, \$220, Stevie May. **ABOVE** *Matisse And The Alhambra* **book** (Patronato De La Alhambra Y Generalife), \$110, Books Kinokuniya.



YOUR OWN IMPRESSION

Taking inspiration from artworks is a great decorating trick, but usually, this translates to borrowing a colour palette only. We say, look beyond the hues and consider **composition, shape** and **subject**, too. From this painting, *Sitting Odalisque* by French impressionist Henri Matisse, the adaptation of the colour palette is evident, but we've borrowed the striped upholstered seating and **Moroccan-style tiled backdrop**, too. We reinterpreted the shape of the subject's legs into aqua side tables and an ottoman while the painting's flooring is echoed in our cushions. →

MODERN INTERPRETATION

A Bigger Splash by modern artist David Hockney was the perfect inspiration for our sunny modern-minimal living room – we echoed the shapes, colours and composition. The **block colours** of the pool, diving board and house **translate** well to the blue sideboard, yellow rug and orangey-pink sofa while interpreting the **house windows as a mirror** is more subtle. The palm trees come through in the artwork, completing the **replication of composition** from art to real life interior. →

Block out

Ikea PS **cabinet** in Blue, \$199, and Locksta Easy **chair** in Blue, \$49.99, Ikea. Harper **sofa** in Balder 3 colour 542, \$4250, Jordan. Ceramic **stool** in Orange, \$630, Project 82. Rubn Lighting "Miller" **floor lamp** in Brass/Matte White, \$995.50, Fred International. **ON CABINET** FROM LEFT Large Cloud **bowl** in Ice Blue, \$160, and Medium Shell Wrap **vase** in Blue, \$175, Dinosaur Designs. Hay "Shapes" **mirror**, \$430, Cult. Medium Band **vase** in Yellow, \$165, Small Cloud **bowl** in Blue, \$50, and Atelier **salad bowl** (just seen), \$380, Dinosaur Designs. **ON WALL** *Dream On* photographic **artwork** by Phil Noller (1.5m x 1m), \$770, Penny Farthing Design House. **WALL PAINT** Taubmans Endure Interior in **Sea Breeze**, \$82.90 for 4L. **ON FLOOR** Monte Vibrant #11 **rug** (2.08m x 1.82m), \$1890, Pampa. **CAROLINE WEARS** Scuba drop-waist **dress**, \$16.40, MRP. For similar **heels**, try Southy pointed heels in Stripe, \$49, Asos. Memphis **sunglasses** in White/Grey, \$90, Poppy Lissiman. **OPPOSITE** *David Hockney book* (Prestel), \$44.99, Books Kinokuniya.





David Hockney

(English, b. 1937)

Modern artist

Pop artist

A Bigger Splash, 1967

Acrylic on canvas



Jeremiah Goodman

(American, b. 1922)

Watercolour and gouache illustrator

Home Of Edward G. Robinson, 2009

Watercolour on illustration board

Floral fabulous

Jackson 3-seat **sofa** in Pink, \$1395, Clickon Furniture. Molteni "Grado Tavolino" **coffee table**, \$2515, Hub Furniture Lighting Living. Bone inlay hexagonal **side table** in Floral/Green, \$995, Ruby Star Traders. Diane Bergeron "Lexi" **ottoman** in Topaz, \$1610, Arthur G. **ON SOFA** Bonnie And Neil "Jungle Leaf" **cushion** in Green, \$125, and New Tile **cushions** in Green, \$145 each, Koskela. Bonnie And Neil "Pansy" **cushion** in Peach/Green, \$145, Emily Ziz Style Studio. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Flowers and vase from Hermetica Flowers. **ON SIDE TABLE** Branch and vase from Hermetica Flowers. **ON WALL** *In Bloom* print in Pastel (50cm x 50cm), \$160 unframed, I Need Nice Things. **WALL PAINT** Dulux Wash & Wear in Grey Pail, \$74.95 for 4L. **ON FLOOR** Greg Natale "Corsica" cement tiles, \$120 a sq m, Teranova. **CAROLINE WEARS** Scoop-neck tank, \$5.60, MRP. Caster jacket in Hot Pink, \$699, Camilla And Marc. California pants, \$199, Talulah. Ono Foil Nappa heels, from \$595, Stuart Weizman. Single Ceremonial Tassel pendant necklace, \$149, Elke. **ABOVE** *The Great Lady Decorators book* (Rizzoli), \$81.50, Booktopia.com.au For stockists, see page 215.

COLOUR TRANSLATION

We've based this space on a painting of a living room by famous interiors illustrator Jeremiah Goodman, so **some elements** are **translated literally** – branch for branch, pink sofa for pink sofa. **Other parts are more suggestive**, like the monochrome tiles on the floor and artwork on the wall, although the composition is the same. The **colour palette is the hero** of both artwork and interior with the sofa at centre stage, but we've added more printed green **cushions** **in lieu of plants** to make it our own. 🌿



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SEE IT, LOVE IT, BUY IT!

66 Timeless spaces

Create a beautiful interior look that will stand the test of time



Looking good

Menu **towel ladder**, \$890, The Minimalist; holding **magazines** and **books** from Ariel Booksellers. Turn the page for three stunning interiors. →





TIMELESS BUYS

Trend decorating is fun, but to make your interior really sing, work new stuff in with **classic hero pieces** like these

STARTING FROM \$0.99

Puppy love

The Matt Blatt "Memphis" 3-seat **sofa** in Tan Leather, \$2595, Matt Blatt. Labelle **coffee table** in Matt Black, \$620, Clickon Furniture. Menu **towel ladder**, \$890, The Minimalist; holding **magazines and books** from Ariel Booksellers. Dibond **mirror** sheet in Gold, \$102.30 a sq m, HVG Decorative Building Products. Ribba **frames** in Black, from \$14.99 each, Ikea; containing *What's Up?* French bulldog **print**, \$129, BoConcept. Jarvis **armchair** in Mustard/Gull tweed fabric, \$2600, Jardan. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Hay "Bits And Bobs" **containers** in Dark Green, Grey and Light Grey, \$27.50 for small, \$34.10 for medium, and \$41.80 for large, Cult. Zakkia Brass **candleholders**, \$24 for medium, \$29 for large, Collector Store; holding Dagligen unscented **candles** in Black, 99 cents for 4 pack, Ikea. **ON WALL** Wall **tables** in Brass, \$350 for small, \$375 for tall, The Design Hunter. **WALL PAINT** Porter's Paints Limewash in **Blackheath**, \$107.40 for 4L. **ON FLOOR** Ådum high-pile round **rug** in Lilac, \$79, Ikea. →



SIMPLE GEOMETRIC

A GOLD-TINTED MIRROR, BRIGHT HITS OF COLOUR AND RETRO-INSPIRED SHAPES COMBINE FOR A BOLD, SOPHISTICATED LOOK





WILD AT HEART



A LEATHER PENDANT LIGHT AND MACRAMÉ WALL HANGING ADD A GENEROUS DOSE OF TEXTURE, AS DOES A POWERFUL EAGLE PRINT



Raw appeal

Marly **dining table** in White Marble, \$2300, and Academy Stitch **dining chairs** in Chamois, \$290 each, Globe West. Stockholm **console** in Walnut Veneer, \$499, Ikea. Pod "Luxe" leather **pendant light** in Natural, \$595, The Design Hunter. **ON TABLE** Lucy salt & pepper grinders, \$44.95 each, Country Road. Wrong for Hay cork **cone**, \$41.80, Cult. Volcanic **vase**, \$132, The Design Hunter. Glass **dome** with ceramic base, \$95, Terrace; containing Tweed **pot** in White, \$30, and Mammillaria **cactus**, \$20, Terrace. **ON CONSOLE** Raw Nguni **horn**, \$60, Tan leather **journal**, \$25, and Spot glass **beads** in Black/White, \$120, The Design Hunter. Stoneware terracotta **planter** holding cactus, \$120, and Studio Kyss concrete **canister** with lid, \$70, Koskela. Stoic 1 Light **table lamp** in Concrete/Grey, \$149, Beacon Lighting. **ON WALLS** Eagle **print** on plexibond by Masja Stolk, \$749, HK Living. Jute macramé **wall hanging**, \$99, Table Tonic. Elements "Concrete 46555" **wallpaper**, \$129.90 for 10m roll, Vision Wallcoverings. **WALL PAINT** Dulux Wash & Wear in **Pre School Quarter**, \$89.45 for 4L. **ON FLOOR** Cowhide **rug** in Solid Beige, \$399, NSW Leather Co. →



STARTING FROM \$20





STARTING FROM \$5



BACK TO BLACK

THE DARK COLOUR PALETTE IS BALANCED WITH MARBLE, TIMBER AND A SHEEPSKIN FOR A MODERN YET CLASSIC FEEL



Warm minimal

The Matt Blatt Borge Mogensen 3-seat **sofa** in Black, \$3395, Matt Blatt. Quincy **coffee table** in Solid Southern Ash, \$2562, Jordan. Tripod **floor lamp** in Black, \$189, Beacon Lighting. Varmluft **pendant light shades** in Off White (five have been layered together), \$8.99 each, Hemma **cord set** in White, \$5, and Teresia sheer **curtains** in White, \$9.99 for pair, Ikea. **ON SOFA** Icelandic spotted **sheepskin**, \$229, Hides Of Excellence. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Marble **tray**, \$70, and Basic Obelisk **sculpture**, \$70, Marble Basics. Venus marble **candleholder** in White/Grey (comes as set, only one shown), \$90, Globe West. Playtype "No.2" scented **candle**, \$59, The Minimalist. Original metal **slinky** (spray-painted black), \$9.95, Australian Geographic. **ON WALL** Brick Wall **wallpaper** in Black, \$69 a sq m, Rebel Walls. **ARTWORKS** FROM TOP *Totally* print, \$29.95 framed, HK Living. *City Of Light 2* photographic print, \$499 framed, BoConcept. *Smoke And Mirrors* A3 photographic print, \$150 unframed, Lynden Foss; framed in Nyttja frame in Black, \$5.99, Ikea. *White Tiles* XL print, \$139 framed, and *Never Regular* print, \$139 framed, The Minimalist. **ON FLOOR** Dimas **rug** in Grey, \$1599, BoConcept. Lightweight terrazzo **pot** in Black, \$45, Terrace; holding **plant** from Bunnings. *For stockists, see page 215.* ●



Floor: French Oak in Driftwood
Cabinetry: American Oak in Danish White

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74 **White patina**

An interior architect revamps an old apartment with little cash and no time!

82 **Light factory**

A black and white palette features in a renovated factory, filled with designer buys

92 **Barefoot alfresco**

Two tiny cottages are combined to create an open, chilled-out retreat

100 **Blue wood**

Danish and Japanese aesthetics are combined in this simple, sustainable home

Bigger the better

Oversized candlesticks, complete with classic white pillar candles, are grouped in a corner to eye-catching effect. A large shell is in keeping with the oversized theme. *Flip the page for more of this interesting apartment. →*



white patina

Even with no money and no time, a tired rental is **totally transformed**

Mixed-up mama

A large dining table fits with the oversized theme in Marion Collard's apartment. "I like to put things together that have nothing to do with each other, but when put together they tell a story," Marion, pictured, says. →

who lives here?

Interior architect Marion Collard, her husband Guillaume, and their baby Amber. marioncollard.com

Moodboard inspiration Marion's inspiration comes from moodboards she's compiled over many years. When out and about, she regularly snaps pics to give her ideas for her own and her clients' interiors. "I take photos of everything in sight, from a brass railing to a pretty rubbish bin," she says.







Decorator know-how

Although the sofas are different styles, similar-coloured covers unify the look. Disparate items are grouped on a tray on the coffee table for a neat, contained display.

A TIGHT BUDGET and even tighter timeframe didn't stop interior architect Marion Collard and her husband Guillaume from giving their newly rented apartment an amazing revamp. The couple had to think creatively and work with what they had – a collection of eclectic pieces – to create a home, with only 10 days to do so! Marion had to transform the 77-sq-m apartment between work projects and preparing for the birth of her baby, Amber.

Situated in a characterful 1900s building, with a dressed stone facade, the two-bedroom, one-bathroom unit, complete with little balcony, needed a serious freshen-up. Although its aspect was good, with lots of natural light flooding through the large windows, the whole place required a lick, or two, of paint. Marion chose a crisp white for the walls, which made the space look larger, lighter and brighter and also served as a perfect canvas for her collection of framed posters, photos and cool artwork. Another easy way to inject vitality into the space was to paint old cupboard doors and substitute aged handles for new. Marion's palette was generally black and white, with pops of colour. "I also like tarnished metal, brass and coloured patinas," she adds. While structural changes couldn't be made, other simple changes made a huge difference. The 1950s parquet flooring was →



Casual affair

A small table up against the wall, perfect for informal meals, takes up little space. Art is made on a map!



Decorator's tricks

A shelf on an angle breaks up the lines of the room. It's perfect to display large coffee table books, laid flat. Cute shopping bags hung on a door handle become decoration.

“I LIKE TO MIX OBJECTS AND STYLES,” MARION SAYS. “FOR EXAMPLE, THE POLISHED WOOD OF MY DESK WITH THE ROUGH WOOD OF A NEARBY OBJECT, A BAMBOO TABLE NEXT TO OAK, AND OLD-FASHIONED CLOTH AND CRUSHED VELVET”



Fresh beginnings

The old parquet floor was given a matte varnish to give it a more modern, Scandinavian look.

Marion's aim

"I need to feel that the place is readable in one eyesight, that circulation is fluid and that the perspectives are interesting," says Marion, an interior architect. →



◇ step ladder =
bedside table

gorgeous, but needed a bit of TLC. A matte varnish was applied, giving it a more modern, Scandinavian feel. Marion also placed new lino over the scruffy kitchen floor.

It was important to her, too, that the apartment felt homely. Once the paint and varnish had dried, she filled every nook with treasures from her travels, funky flea-market finds and family heirlooms. "I like to mix objects and styles," she comments. And she does with aplomb, fearlessly mixing different timber species and contrasting textures – smooth and rough, organic and plush. "I like to put things together that have nothing to do with each other, but when put together, they tell a story," Marion comments. It may have been a small budget and a tight time frame, but the transformation was huge. The entire unit is a pièce da résistance. ①



A FLOORING



B CURTAINS



C TILES - BATHROOM

D INTERIOR PAINT

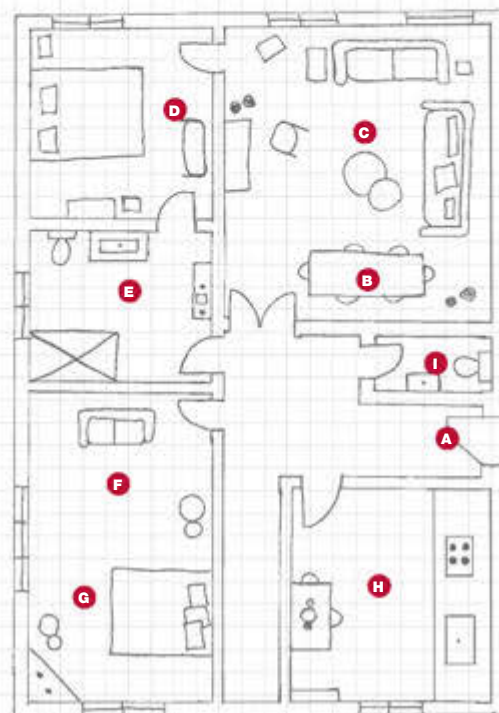


FINISHES

FLOORING Square On Square in **European Oak** (A; 260mm x 65mm x 18mm), from \$198 a sq m, Precision Flooring. **CURTAINS** KOO "Outback" eyelet in **White** (B; 1.35m x 2.23m), \$19.99, Spotlight. **TILES** Gloss White (C; 152mm x 152mm), from \$39.95 a sq m, Beaumont Tiles. **INTERIOR PAINT** Bauwerk Lime in **Whitewash** (D), \$88 for 4L. For stockists, see page 215.

KEY

- A Entrance
- B Dining area
- C Living area
- D Master bedroom
- E Bathroom
- F Sitting area
- G Bedroom
- H Kitchen
- I WC



Friends in need

Marion was able to get leftover kitchen tiles from other renovators, which helped keep down the costs of the reno.

Take a dip

Lisa **photographic artwork** by Christian Coigny, \$160 framed, Yellow Korner. 29cm x 24cm.

Art beat

Framed music makes for an interesting artwork on the wall in the living area.

Round reflection

Blush round **mirror**, \$199, Urban Couture. 50cm diameter.

Golden hour

Ross Gardam "Silhouette" **lamp** in Gold, \$398, Top3 By Design.

MARION'S MOODBOARD

Textural materials and rustic finishes are teamed with inky colours for a comfy, lived-in look

Fine feature

Tine K Home "Mattress Ticking" **cushion**, \$65, This...Design & Living. 50cm x 75cm.

Rustic mix

Reclaimed wood-and-lacquer 3-drawer **dresser**, \$1149, West Elm. 91cm x 46cm x 84cm.

Scandinavian style

Juno Scandi 2-seat **sofa** in Slate Grey, \$1950, Globe West.

* *splurge*

Two tones

Large ceramic **bowl** in White, \$179, HK Living. 42cm diameter.

Sculptural piece

Miguel **candleholder**, \$169.95, Amalfi. 76cm high.

White & worn

Annika **jug**, \$49.95, Amalfi. 38cm high. Atlantis "Temple" **jar**, \$330, Urban Balcony. 69cm high.

Quiet type

Bodoni: **Manual Of Typography book** by Dr Stephan Fussell (Taschen), from \$22 for hardcover, Amazon.

Sunny stripe

Acapulco ceramic **vessel**, \$26.95, Venucci. 20cm high.

Colour block

Tokyo Honey Blk **vessel**, \$16.50, Venucci. 10cm high.

Beauty in everyday

Everything on homeowner and embroidery designer Mariko's work table has a practical as well as aesthetic function; it's the beauty in small things.



B L U E W O O D

Danish simplicity and Japanese finesse combine in the transformation of a derelict shanty into a **modern and sustainable** family home

**Handcrafted with love**

Mariko's husband Jens made the dining table from sanded and waxed timber pallets. It's surrounded by Hans Wegner "Wishbone" chairs, while Le Klint pendants hang above. Handmade Japanese ceramics are displayed on the table. →

Inspiring spot
Mariko's work table is nestled in a bedroom corner. The tabletop, a rough timber surface, is mounted on the wall. A noticeboard is crammed with clippings, postcards and photos of family life.



Perfect arrangement

Tatami mats on the floor and dark lacquered cupboard doors have a traditional Japanese feel. The chairs are flea-market finds.

**Soul mates**

Handmade Japanese ceramics feature throughout the home; the blue and green colours fit beautifully with the similar palette in wall colours and furnishings.

**Creative culture clash**

Danish Jens H. Jensen and Japanese Mariko Yamazaki combine aesthetics in their home.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN a Dane and a Japanese couple renovate a home together? They combine Danish and Japanese aesthetics, of course – which was the case with Danish-born Jens H. Jensen and his Japanese wife Mariko Yamazaki.

The couple bought their property – a ramshackle two-storey building – in 2010. While others might have only seen decay, trouble and skyrocketing labour fees when considering the house for purchase, the couple saw the opportunity to build their own private sanctuary. “The floorboards were thin, the wallpaper ugly, there was no insulation, the bathroom was rotten, the windows were crooked, and there were thousands of obstacles,” Jens recalls. “But the actual, basic construction was – to us – a brilliant point of departure for a DIY project.” It helped that Jens, who was responsible for most of the rebuild, proved a very able carpenter.

Although the family stayed elsewhere during the renovation, they spent every weekend and holiday at the building site, with the couple only bringing in outside help for jobs they really couldn’t do themselves. Part of the reason Jens and Mariko pretty much designed, planned and rebuilt their home on their own was to ensure everything was done in the most sustainable way possible. For example, plaster on some of the →

Recycling upcycling

The bookshelves in the living room, also made from recycled wood, are built into the wall to take up minimum space. Low plank beds at right angles become a corner couch. The floor lamp is made from building materials and an industrial-style spotlight.

who lives here?

Magazine editor Jens H. Jensen, his wife Mariko Yamazaki, an embroidery designer, and their sons Kai, 7, and Bo, 4

Culture plus Jens's Danish and Mariko's Japanese roots are instantly seen in the mix of Danish furniture classics from Le Klint, Hans Wegner and Royal Copenhagen, and elegant Japanese ceramics and beautiful antiques found at local flea markets. "The aesthetics of the two nations actually have a lot in common," Jens says. "The clean lines and the use of natural materials interrelate really well."





Harmonic coherence

An open-plan kitchen, which was high on the couple's wish list, was designed and built by Jens. It features simple plywood, which matches the rest of the home's interior, and is filled with Scandinavian tableware. →

Home-made collection

Mariko made the embroidered bedspread. The bedside table is made from timber offcuts, the lamp from a bottle and Ikea shade. The pine wainscoting also acts as a headboard.



Sew lovely

The chest of drawers, from an antique market, stores Mariko's embroidery and sewing paraphernalia.



walls is made from pulverised shells, while insulation is made from wood fibres and sheep's wool. And recycled materials are used everywhere. "Everything needs to be transparent and plainly evident," Jens explains. "We don't use advanced technology or high-tech materials, but choose simple solutions and solid, natural materials instead. That has created a warmth and an honesty that we really like." Jens is clearly intimately acquainted with every quirky detail, every sanded window frame and every nail in the timber planks in his renovated home.

The interior decorating is very much characterised by the same need for simple, practical and unpretentious solutions. A bedroom wardrobe is made from timber recycled from the original house, the dining table is fashioned out of wooden pallets used to transport materials during the home's reconstruction, and a floor lamp in the living room is made from iron pipes and a floodlight from a building site. The story of the creation of the house is present in every nook and cranny, giving each room character and personality. The couple have created a simple, modern, sustainable home for their family. It's simply sensational. 🌱

Wall floored!

The built-in wardrobe in the bedroom is made from old floorboards, sanded and treated to make the veins and knots and "ornamental" signs of wear stand out. Jens made the bench. →



A INTERIOR PAINT - BEDROOM

B INTERIOR PAINT - BATHROOM

C INTERIOR PAINT - THROUGHOUT

D WAINSCOTING - BEDROOM

E WALL TILES - BATHROOM

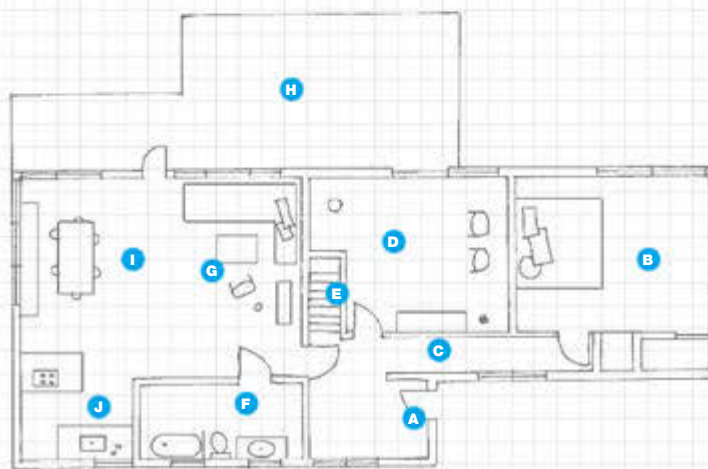
FINISHES

INTERIOR PAINTS Dulux Weathershield in **Surf Rider (A)**, \$89.45 for 4L. Dulux Wash & Wear in **Alien (B)**, \$89.45 for 4L. Murobond Pure Chalk in **Rice Paper (C)**, \$138 for 1L. **WAINSCOTING** Hyne MGP15 structural pine (**D**; 70mm x 35mm), \$5.46 a lineal m, Bunnings. **WALL TILES** Grey Stones "Era" in **Silver** slab format (**E**), \$209 a sq m, Signorino. *For stockists, see page 215.*

FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



KEY

A Entrance **B** Bedroom **C** Hallway **D** Spare room
E Stairs **F** Bathroom **G** Living area **H** Outdoor area
I Dining **J** Kitchen **K** Master bedroom **L** Balcony

Cool contrast

One end of the bathroom features simple grey floor-to-ceiling tiles. A vintage mirror and decoy duck are displayed on a shelf made from driftwood. →



Green team

The green bathroom wall marries beautifully with the light timber Jens used for the window frame and the spindly washstand. The light came from a local hardware store.

Light ray
Vintage ship aluminum shaded bulkhead **wall light**, \$200, Edison Light Globes.

Splash out
Splatter art **print** in Green, from \$25, I Need Nice Things. 20.3cm x 15.2cm.

Origami-inspired
Moth **pendant** in White, \$220, The Minimalist. 40cm x 40cm.

JENS & MARIKO'S MOODBOARD

Danish design meets a Japanese aesthetic clash in a simple, sustainable home

Wood ceramic
Elke **table lamp**, \$99.95, Zanui. 59cm high.

□ *splunge*

Make a wish
Replica Hans Wegner "Wishbone" **chair**, \$289, Life Interiors.

Soft curves
Kado "Lure" 1760 freestanding oval **bath** in White, \$1802.99, Reece.

Sea jewel
Original **beach towel** in Green, \$39, Tommy Towels. 1.8m x 1m.

Lust luxe
Copper **jug**, \$120, Lightly. 32cm high.

Vintage retro
Pretzel Collection **armchair**, \$930, Naturally Cane.

Forever blue
Horizons by Jamie Durie Signature "Big Blue" **rug**, \$1299, The Rug Collection. 2.3m x 1.6m.

Fresh design
Large Kabuki **bowl** in Green, \$11.99, from Spotlight.

LIGHT FACTORY

A loft apartment is renovated and features an **affordable designer look**

Light reflector

High-gloss cabinets allow light to bounce around the open-plan apartment. Homeowners Tuomas and Anna chose not to hang pictures on walls but instead to place them on different surfaces.

Where there's a will

The Moooi "Random" pendant had to be gently squeezed to get through the front door, says Anna, pictured with baby daughter Aida. "Luckily, it's so well designed it withstood the squeeze," she says. →

text | jonna kivilahti | photography | krista keltanen/living inside



Library colour

The couple designed the built-in bookcase in the living room, which extends as a window ledge. Books are arranged according to colour, spiced up with the odd treasure from travels.

ANNA AND TUOMAS Mäkelä stumbled on this converted riverside factory a few years ago – and instantly pictured themselves living in the large 80 sq m space, with its additional 20 sq m mezzanine level that could operate as a work space. While the layout didn't suit their needs, they were able to redesign it – and in the process renovated the apartment, efficiently transforming walls, floors, kitchen, bathroom and sauna before their baby Aida came along.

The couple knocked down one wall to create an open-plan kitchen, dining and living area, with the dining area conveniently located next to the kitchen so when they have dinner parties – which they love to do – the chief cook can still socialise with the guests. For the living area, they designed a chunky built-in bookcase that extends on the side to create a window ledge – creating more surfaces to display charming vignettes and also adding a sense of fluidity to the bookcase design.

Many of the pieces in the home are designer, with the couple buying a lot of them on online auction sites, such as eBay, or in furniture sales. The Artek sofa in the living room was bought during a sale, and stored for a couple of years until the couple found the right place to put it. The Ingo Maurer's "Zettel'z 5" pendant light over the dining table was found online, and assembled by the couple. Anna and Tuomas have slowly acquired their pieces over the years, always with quality the focus. They are followers of online store Etsy and website Pinterest for inspiration.

In keeping with their classic look, Anna and Tuomas favour a black and white palette, with splashes of colour provided by the odd accessory. A black feature wall in the living area beautifully offsets the light-coloured furniture and furnishings. Trends may come and go, but the timeless style of this home will never date. 📌





who lives here?

Tuomas and Anna Mäkelä and Aida, 1

Furniture choices "We tend to go for design classics throughout and are particularly inspired by the forms of Eames, Panton and their contemporaries," Tuomas says. "Our favourite brands include Hay and Muuto."

Favourite pieces Mogens Lassen's "Kubus" candlesticks are among Anna's favourites; she has gradually increased her collection in different sizes.

Carefully curated

An Ingo Maurer "Zettel'z 5" light, made from stainless steel, glass and Japanese paper, hangs over the table. A windowsill display includes a toy drum, flap clock and Eames bird.





Clever moves TOP ROW FROM LEFT The couple's black and white theme continues in Aida's room, where an Eames lounge chair takes pride of place on an Ikea "Stockholm" rug. "We went for an open-plan kitchen by knocking down a wall, leaving a nice space for a dining area next to the kitchen," Tuomas says. BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT The Moooi "Random" pendant light is somewhat of a centrepiece in the home, see from every room. More shelves in the bedroom are perfect for displaying books, photos and posters. A Mogens Lassen "Kubus 4" white candleholder is one of several in the home. →





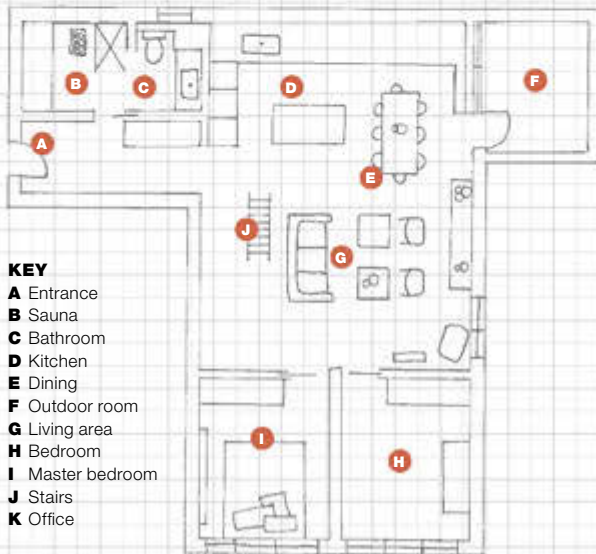
FINISHES

SAUNA WOOD Timport in **Merbau Dressed (A)**; 70mm x 19mm), \$6.55 a lineal m, Bunnings. **KITCHEN BENCHTOP** Kaboodle Kitchen island in **Coconut Ice (B)**; 2400mm), \$330, Bunnings. **KITCHEN CUPBOARDS** Laminex Aquapanel in **Polar White Gloss (C)**, from \$80 a sq m, Laminex. **INTERIOR PAINT** Dulux Wash & Wear in **Berkshire White (D)**, \$74.95 for 4L. For stockists, see page 215.

MEZZANINE



GROUND FLOOR



KEY

- A** Entrance
- B** Sauna
- C** Bathroom
- D** Kitchen
- E** Dining
- F** Outdoor room
- G** Living area
- H** Bedroom
- I** Master bedroom
- J** Stairs
- K** Office

Toasty refresh

The renovated sauna also contains an adjacent shower: a perfect combination.



Hi there

Hello artwork **print**, from \$2, I Need Nice Things.
20.3cm x 15.2cm; larger sizes available.



Shiny night

Metal **candleholder**
in Copper, \$9.95, H&M.
15cm high.



Scented flicker
Diptyque "Baies"
candle, \$78, Mecca.

Luxe display
Basic rectangular
marble tray, \$150,
Marble Basics.
30cm x 16cm.

White weave

Habitat **pendant** in
White, from \$69.95,
Beacon Lighting. 30cm
diameter; larger sizes
available.



Old school
Karlsson "Mini Flip"
wall **clock**, \$299.95, Zanui.
25cm x 25cm x 10cm.

ANNA & TUOMAS'S MOODBOARD

*Designer pieces
and a monochrome
palette for a quietly
sophisticated, relaxing
family home*

Perfectly contained

Tuomas hangs out in the living area.
Two Hay "Tray" tables sit side-by-
side to form a coffee table.



Cute as a button
Hay "Dot" **cushion**,
\$143, Cult.
60cm x 45cm.



Classic grey
Replica Eames "DSR"
chair in Mild Grey,
\$69, Sokol.



Cushy relax
Fraser **sofa**, \$2947,
Oz Design Furniture.

Right stripes
Stockholm **rug** in
Black/Off white, \$299,
Ikea. 2.4m x 1.7m.



Design nous

Hay "Tray" **coffee table**
in White, from \$285, Cult.



Bird's eye...
Replica Eames "House
Bird" **ornament**,
\$95, Matt Blatt.
30cm x 27cm x 10cm;
other colours available.



A full-page background image of a coastal scene. In the foreground, white-capped waves are crashing onto a dark, rocky beach. The water is a mix of grey and white. In the middle ground, the ocean stretches out towards a range of mountains in the distance. The mountains are silhouetted against a pale, overcast sky with soft, diffused light. The overall mood is serene and natural.

barefoot alfresco

Two tiny cottages are combined to create an **open-plan, artistic** home, featuring lots of recycled timber

Lord of the (swim) ring

"It reminds me of [Tolkien's] Middle-earth," homeowner Estelle says of the wildly beautiful nearby beach and bay.

who lives here?

Estelle Scholtz and Dirk Hartford and their three dogs

Under the stars The master bedroom extends outside, where Estelle and Dirk can sleep under the stars.

A raised, planted platform holding a garden within the bedroom is backed by a vertical garden planted with succulents.

Low-maintenance Plants surrounding the fire pit, including aloe and salvia, were chosen because they are hardy and waterwise.

Tactile reigns Texture is all-important in the interiors, from the glossy screeded cement floor and gritty painted walls to the lightly washed, exposed ceiling beams and the furnishings made from grainy reclaimed scaffolding planks.



Cool nights

In the living space, a vintage Rayburn stove heats the room in winter. It sits atop a bench that spans the length of the wall. →

Relax alfresco

A roof made from eucalyptus latte poles provides a shady spot on the upstairs balcony. Furniture, here, is made from recycled timber, too.



Swing low

Estelle, pictured, designed the swinging seat, suspended by steel cables. The sliding door is also made from recycled timber. The garden is part of an alfresco bedroom.



Kitchen gallery

In the kitchen area, shelves, countertops and cooking island were all made by local craftsmen from scaffolding planks. Artworks are fearlessly displayed around the home, including the kitchen.


Pit stop

Sofas in the living room are arranged around a sunken "conversation pit". Behind is Estelle's home office nook.

THE BEAUTY OF A TINY historic fishing village's location – a nearby wild ocean and majestic mountain range – first drew Estelle Scholtz and Dirk Hartford to the area. Then they fell in love with a site for a home – except it was already occupied by two small cheek-by-jowl houses, which were basic but perfectly adequate buildings. But rather than demolish them, Estelle and Dirk decided to work around them, after considering their requirements. They both wanted space to work from home, including a studio for Estelle's creative projects, and they also needed room to accommodate visiting adult children. As they both loved fresh air and outdoor living, they also wanted a house that connected to the outside, allowing for a barefoot, alfresco lifestyle. And it had to be practical, easy to live in and fit in with the fishing-village aesthetic.

With a "make-do" mentality, the couple quickly came up with a solution – to open up the two existing structures and join them together to create a single, double-storey open-plan home. The original house at the back of the plot is now the master bedroom with ensuite, while the dwelling at the front, which overlooks the beach, formed the foundations for an open-plan living room and office. A generous kitchen and dining space bridges the area between the two. →



Blue waters

A Victorian bath was refinished in blue enamel in a typically quirky touch, providing a refreshing bolt of colour.



Outdoor loving

A wide, covered verandah is used year-round as a living space. Estelle painted the Morris chairs. The floor was painted in grey.



Three in one

In the studio, a timber bedhead separates the sleeping zone from the kitchen, and a sofa, the sleeping from the living. →



Natural light

The studio also contains photographer/designer/interior decorator Estelle's creative space.



A sculptural concrete staircase against the kitchen wall leads to a large, light-flooded self-contained studio, with the only internal wall giving the bathroom some privacy. The studio is both a guest room and art studio for Estelle, a photographer/designer/interior decorator. A generous balcony along the exterior north-facing wall upstairs provides lots of outdoor living space.

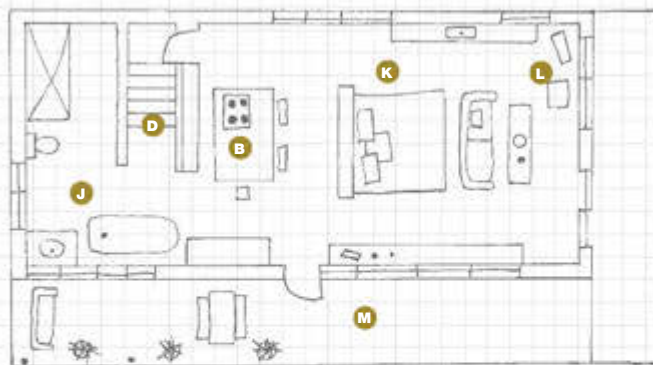
True to Estelle's aesthetic, the interiors are unpretentious, tactile and welcoming, with most of the kitchen cabinetry, cooking islands and bookshelves made by local craftsmen. Furnishings were kept simple and the palette neutral, with an emphasis on texture and the handcrafted. Flooring is painted screeded concrete in grey, while interior walls feature textured paint in a pale sand colour. Outside, the walls were painted in an earthy green that blends in with the surrounding vegetation and makes the exterior look cohesive – two cottages merged to become one lovely home. ●



FINISHES

BENCHTOP Kaboodle Kitchen in **Hickory Maple (A)**; 2.4m x 60cm), \$340, Bunnings. **EXTERIOR PAINT** Dulux Weathershield in **Russian Toffee (B)**, \$89.45 for 4L. **SHUTTERS** Luxaflex Newstyle polyresin in **PolySatin Finish (C)**; 1.7m x 1.5m), \$1700, Luxaflex. **INTERIOR PAINT** Bauwerk Lime in **Whitewash (D)**, \$88 for 4L. For stockists, see page 215.

FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



KEY

A Entrance **B** Kitchen **C** Dining area **D** Stairs **E** Master bedroom
F Ensuite **G** Verandah **H** Living area/conversation pit **I** Office nook
J Bathroom **K** Studio bedroom **L** Art corner **M** Balcony



Bow wow wow

A pimped Eero Aarnio "Puppy" was a surprise present for Estelle from partner Dirk. It enjoys a prime position on the low-slung charcoal mantel alongside a striking artwork by Zimbabwean artist Kudzanai Chiurai.

Guest retreat

The studio kitchen features a reclaimed timber cooking island, echoing the kitchen downstairs.

Instant green wall

Foliage ivy expanding trellis in Green, \$99, Freedom. 2m x 1m x 4cm.

Equine beauty

Carved horse stand ornament, \$295, Orson & Blake. 46cm high.

ESTELLE & DIRK'S MOODBOARD

Handcrafted pieces mix with recycled timber furniture for an understated, organic look

Cosy goodness

Cushions: Cross in White (45cm), \$49.95, Wild Hearts Online. Kas "Zia" in Coral (45cm), \$49.95, David Jones.

Woof, woof

Magis "Puppy" seat/sculpture/toy by Eero Aarnio, from \$100 for small. Cult. 34.5cm high.

Concrete diva

Round Nugget pot, \$59.95, Design Twins. 12cm high.

Compact design

Lucas sofa bed, from \$1399. Oz Design Furniture. 1.56m x 90cm x 80cm.

Be seated

Antique white stool, \$139, Citta Design. 51cm high.

So succulent

Fejka artificial potted plant, \$7.99, Ikea. 10.5cm high.

Tribal beat

Cameroon stool Number 1, \$980, Orient House. 60cm high.

Character piece

Indian storage box, \$495, Weylands. 45cm x 32cm x 20cm.

Pure new wool

Stockholm rug in Brown, \$399, Ikea. 2.4m x 1.7m.

Blue hue

Dulux Wash & Wear in Pool Bar, \$46.45 for 1L.

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Natural
Falda

BLACK
Natural
Controfalda

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rooms

DECORATE, DESIGN, CREATE!

110 **30 things you didn't know about decorating**

Interior design expert Jacinta Preston gives us the lowdown

123 **the block**

Get ready for *The Block Triple Threat* – the first round of room reveals and more

132 **so you wanna be a designer?**

Meet a bunch of up-and-coming interior stylists and designers who are about to make their mark

New tricks

From buying art to painting drainpipes, Jacinta Preston reveals 30 things you may not have known about decorating. Turn the page to find out. →

...or you need to be **reminded of!** Top interior designer **Jacinta Preston** spells out a bunch of the most obvious but most overlooked facets of good decorating

things you didn't know about decorating...

text | jacinta preston | **photography** | felix forest | **styling** | tahnee carroll
styling assistants | merey barrett, sinead ambrose & gabi angel

02

01. FINDING YOUR STYLE It's all about kissing frogs! You need to kiss a lot of frogs to find your Prince and finding your style is no different. It really is as simple as "**Style & Error**". This is a fundamental method of solving problems, including design ones. "Style & Error" means repeated, varied attempts, until you find a style that is just right. It can be as unsystematic as you like. Don't expect this to be a finite or static thing either...the "Style & Error" operation will continue throughout your life. Each new life phase or new property will force your hand, to somewhat reinvent your ideas on style. This is the ridiculously fun part – embrace it!

02. GET THE LIGHT RIGHT Aim to have a variety of layered lighting that can be individually controlled for different times of the day, events or moods. Most rooms require three types of lighting: general, accent, and task.

Ambient or general lighting illuminates a room in a fairly uniform manner.

Accent lighting is used to emphasise a room's features, such as art and decorative objects. **Task lighting** is all about directional and adjustable light sources – think reading lights and study lamps. Try and illuminate most of your room with an assortment of lights and lamps, preferably all fitted with dimmers. And please, enough already with downlights! →

01

Subtle sophisticate

Kivik 3-seat **sofa** in Red-Lilac, \$699, Ikea. Chester tufted occasional **chair** in Light Olive, \$1560, Globe West. Cappellini "Gong Lux" **side table** in Polished Copper, \$2819.30, and Poltrona Frau "Esedra" leather **pouf**, \$4382.40, Cult. Replica Mariano Fortuny **floor lamp** in Black, \$995, and Vintage-style *Vogue* 1950s stretched canvas **print**, \$595, Matt Blatt. **ON SOFA** Pompom **throw**, \$249, Kip & Co. **ON TABLE** Coral from beach. **ON FLOOR** DC10028 grey polished porcelain **tiles**, \$75 a sq m, Di Lorenzo. **WALL PAINT** Porter's Paints Ultra Flat acrylic in **Cool Blue**, \$95.30 for 4L.

03. TRY BEFORE YOU BUY A surprising number of retail stores and suppliers will let you take things home on “appro”. You can have **24 hours to interview the contender** before making the big decision: to buy or not to buy. **Rugs and artworks** are two VIP “try before you buy” candidates. I would even suggest that it’s impossible to make a great rug selection without first viewing it insitu. The lovely exception is if you have the opportunity to simply buy what you like and build the perfect room around it.

A great art collection starts with just one piece... and like any big project, getting started is the hardest part. Here are my top tips for the beginner collector:

- Research And Development – discover your art preference.
- **Buy what you like.** • Limited-edition prints, lithographs, silkscreens, photography, vintage posters and sculptures are usually more affordable to buy.
- As with all VIP purchases, remember to **keep your records** – it’s important to know the What, Where and From Whom you bought a piece of art. This information adds provenance to your piece and could improve its value.
- When it comes to seeking out the next big thing, look for galleries that have both emerging and local artists together with the established and international.
- Remember, an art auction is at its most intimidating the first time – then it’s beyond fun. It’s very grown-up.

X marks the spot

Swedese “Boxplay” **sofa** in Elmosoft 77030 Perforated, \$15,700, Fred International. Replica Arne Jacobsen “Swan” **chair** in Dark Green, \$695, and New Mexico **coffee table**, \$895, Matt Blatt. Lektor **floor lamp** in Matt Black/Brass, \$990, Fred International. **ON SOFA** Velvet **cushion** with tassels in Cherry, \$79, Kip & Co. Shibori **cushion** in Emerald, \$155, The Design Hunter. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Poltrona Frau leather **tray**, \$200, and Wrong for Hay lens **box**, \$180, Cult. Verbena soy **candle**, \$49.90, Citta Design. Brass **paperweight**, \$90, The Minimalist. Assorted **books** from Ariel Booksellers. **ON FLOOR** On The Dot **rug** in Black, \$1199, Kip & Co. American oak smoked and limed **flooring**, \$99 a sq m, Porter’s Paints. **ON WALL** Norbert resin Rhino **wall hanging**, \$165, Matt Blatt. Navy *Renegade* **artwork**, \$1180, Danielle Cross. Grid **wallpaper**, \$69 a sq m, Rebel Walls.

04

03



05

That's our gal
Jacinta's office is
light and bright,
neither ramshackle
nor stitched-up.

07. SOURCE LIKE A DESIGNER I like to **brainstorm** all, and I seriously mean ALL my options, from the modest to the deliciously over-the-top. Travel, magazines, journals and trade shows help to keep a designer up to date with new products and materials, and even design ideas. It's important to **remain open to opportunities** along the way, too – just because the plan, brief, or moodboard has a material or element locked in doesn't mean that we should miss an opportunity. Sometimes the best plan is to be open to change the plan. Seize the day.

08

Art hanging trick
Hang small artworks
asymmetrically and low
above the furniture.

06

07

05. MAKING A BRIEF Even if you are going to be your own designer it's important to follow a process. It all starts with the brief... or perhaps a long wish list. **A good design brief should focus on the outcome of the design.** A design brief is often referred to as a **scope of works**. It includes details on all elements that need to be covered in the project, a shopping list of needs and wants, together with ideas on the budget and timeline. For most, it will be easier to prepare a brief **room by room**. This will enable you to quickly list requirements for the space – for instance, you need to seat 10 at the dining table on a regular basis, or you need a study nook in the kitchen.

06. MAKE (TOO) SMALL ARTWORKS WORK

Hang small artworks **off centre and lower than usual** – this pulls the image into the space and, in the instance pictured here, makes it group or connect with the sofa. This asymmetrical style of hanging will also work just as well above a bed, sideboard, or even TV unit. The arrangement is win-win, allowing for additional artworks to be added to the mix later on.



Source of wonder (above)
The Country Trader in Waterloo (Thecountrytrader.com.au) is one of Jacinta's go-to sources for French antiques and classical European pieces.

08. DESIGNERS: WHAT TO EXPECT

Thinking of hiring an interior designer? The following points are good to know.

- A designer will **invade your personal spaces** trying to figure out not only what you *think* you want but also what you *do* need. We negotiate the "his and hers" ideas and merge them into harmony. Sometimes, with respect, I will set the client's brief aside, and check what is good for the space, room, or overall house. (Sometimes, unwittingly, clients ask for the wrong thing.)
- A designer is **part cheerleader**. We encourage our clients to be brave and question conventional thinking. The goal is to achieve a truly personal space that's perfect for how YOU live.
- A designer is **part clairvoyant**. We see things that aren't there... yet! We see the possibilities that pertain to your space and you can, too.

09. DESIGN: SHOULD IT BE ABOUT RESALE POTENTIAL? The short answer is **NO, not if you're talking about the family home**. The typical improvements made during a renovation should be adequate to ensure a good sale. (If you're a developer, or renovating for profit, flipping houses, then it's a different story.) Make the kitchen, bathrooms and landscaping what YOU want them to be, not what you perceive some unknown future buyer might want. Your family home is just that, so pay homage to YOUR family! →

Space-age splendour

Want to see oversize furniture (Tip #13)? There's plenty at **Space** in Alexandria (Spacefurniture.com.au). Here's Jacinta atop the amazing Gaetano Pesce for B&B Italia "UP5_6" armchair, with its squidgy curves and ball-and-chain ottoman.



10. DESIGN STAGES – MAKE THE DESIGN FIT YOUR LIFE Design and organise your home life around who you are and how you like to live, and what you do. **You need to make the building fit your family**, not the other way round, particularly if you're doing a new build or a substantial reno. If you have young kids then level access to the garden will probably be important. On the other hand, older teenagers and still-at home grown-ups will need separate spaces (even separate wings, if you can manage it!). Make sure the heart of the home is a light, open area in which to cook, eat, live and be social. Life is full of compromise but make sure the main space of your home is not one of them. Cheat on bedroom sizes, even bathrooms, to shift the balance of space to where it will be used 24/7. Adequate storage and utility rooms take the pressure off the main living spaces so make this a priority.

11. OPEN-PLAN CAN BE OVERRATED Still, **think carefully before you knock down all the walls**. Open-plan is completely fabulous for relaxing on Sunday arvos and entertaining but they can be busy and noisy, and it's impossible to hide the mess. Open-plan is at its best when they incorporate secondary spaces – snugs, nooks – that remain quite separate.

**12. UNDERSTAND YOUR SPACE**

The easiest way to understand the size of a space is **mock it up** within a large room (or even a shed!). Include the key items of furniture, either by using real pieces or a stack of cardboard boxes to resemble the volume. Masking tape and chalk can help with this process, too. The idea is to figure out what you need and where you can cheat.

13. SMALL ROOMS NEED BIG

FURNITURE Small-scale furniture in a small room makes things look, well, really SMALL. We all know how to make our legs look longer, or minimise our midriff. This is the same idea – **we need to fool the eye**. Guide the eye to “reading” or “assessing” the size of the room with a BIG visual reference. This could be a 3.5-seater sofa in a small room, or a high, grand bed in a small bedroom.

14. FURNITURE & FLOW Allow for a **generous corridor in a room**, making it easy to move around and pass someone. Apply this generosity to the garden path, too. Study the possible movement patterns on your floorplans – use different colours to track possible routes. Flipping the orientation and configuration of furniture in a room can dramatically improve the experience of how you live within it.

15

15. CRACKING THE KITCHEN

I think it's fair to say kitchens are the new living rooms. These days a kitchen is not just the heart of the home, it's "control central". It's where all the action is, not least of which is the cooking. Is there a recipe for the perfect kitchen? Absolutely. The perfect kitchen is really just about sorting the kit! The first part of the process is to **understand WHO the kitchen is for**. Is it an investment property or for a family entertainer? Is yours a "family roast" kind of kitchen, or a "toast and Berocca" galley? Is your kitchen about producing comfort food, cupcakes, or fine dining? The bachelor's "toast and Berocca" kitchen might be fun and glam but it's the kitchen you have when you're not really cooking. He needs a turbo coffee machine, a microwave, and some serious gas for the stirfry. That's it. To design the perfect kitchen you need to think about what you're cooking. Also, how do the chefs work in your kitchen? These things determine how much space you need to pass each other, what size appliances, and how much storage is required, and how to arrange the floorplan. →

14

Access all areas

Faktum/Gvosjo **kitchen unit** in Black with Rationell interior system, \$1119, Ikea. Raymor "Torino" **sink mixer**, \$328, Tradelink. FAB28 **fridge** in Black, \$4490, Smeg. Bower **dining table** in Greydust Teak, \$1835, Globe West. Tan/Garbarino "Jasmine" leather **chair**, \$595, Life Interiors. Varde wall **shelves** with 5 hooks, \$79, Ikea. Lucci LEDlux "Saba" **pendant light**, \$269, Beacon Lighting. LED **strip lighting** (under cupboards, shelf), from \$49.98, Ikea. **ON BENCH Lava bowl** in Slate, \$74.95, Design Twins; holding **plant** from Terrace. Savon pump **soap**, \$28, Dear September. Mud "Flared" **bowl**, \$190, Funkis; holding **grapes** from supermarket. **ON TABLE Salt & pepper set**, \$28, Dear September. Ceramic **milk bottle**, \$46, The Design Hunter. Gava antique brass **dish**, \$18.90, Citta Design. IVV Speedy **tumblers**, \$151 for 6 assorted colours, Noritake. **ON SHELVES TOP SHELF** 3-arm **candleholder**, \$85, The Design Hunter. Rope Paddle **bread board**, \$45, Dear September. Menu salt & pepper **grinder set**, \$129.90, The Minimalist. Whistler **espresso cups**, \$17 each, The Design Hunter. Wrong for Hay "Noc" **clip light**, \$426.80, Cult. **BOTTOM SHELF** Marimekko **teapot**, \$99, and littala "Lempi" **glasses**, \$109 for 2, Funkis. Fuki **vase**, \$40, The Minimalist. Cross concrete **trivet**, \$25, The Minimalist. Honey **stirrer**, \$11, Funkis. **ON HOOKS** Hay "Clip Clip" **spoon** (set includes 4 different clips), \$14.30, Cult. Iris washing-up **whisk**, \$12, Funkis. **ON WALL** Grid **wallpaper**, \$69 a sq m, Rebel Walls.

16. CUSHION SELECTIONS

You need more time and disproportionately more budget to get these right. Understand that **symmetrical positioning of cushions makes things more formal and structured**. Symmetry tends to work well in bedrooms and lounge rooms, but I would note a preference for keeping this look in the bedroom. Symmetry often means LESS cushions so this can be used as a strategy to manage budget constraints. **Random** cushions need more "Style & Error" testing than just about any other item. **Cushion colours** need to relate to something else in the room, but beware of the "perfect match" – this can easily go wrong. **Play with pattern**, but do try to work within just one or two same colour palettes. Patterns can either be a similar scale or a balanced mix – just make sure you throw in a couple of low-key options or block colours so the eye has somewhere to rest. Finally, **play with shape** too; larger cushions should be placed at the back, and layered forward to create a mix. Now, karate chop!

17. FABRIC HOUSES Wholesale fabric houses service the entire design industry of architects, designers and decorators. Each wholesaler has a different "**signature**" style or "handwriting" to their collection, both in terms of surface decoration and fabric type. The general public are welcome to visit fabric showrooms but will need to purchase through a decorator or designer.

18. CHAIRS ARE TO INTERIORS WHAT SHOES ARE TO FASHION You know what they say about shoes: they will make or break an outfit. It's the same with chairs. **Think of them as accessories**. They are the perfect design tool to add sass to any interior. It's sensible to play it safe on really big-ticket items like sofas, rugs and dining tables but chairs can defy the rules. Let loose. Fake fur, animal prints, velvet, vintage leather... Just remember that a chair has to be *comfortable*.

19. ORDERING A DREAM SOFA/CHAIR? Always **order an extra 3 or 4 metres of sofa fabric** – this is your insurance policy. The fabric will be in the same dyelot as your original order which means should the unthinkable happen you will be able to re-cover a couple of large base or back cushions. If you have **pets**, order enough of your sofa or chair fabric to make a **throw-style blanket** to cover the sofa or chair. This can live on the sofa day-to-day and be whipped off at a moment's notice to reveal nice clean hair-free furniture.

20. CURTAINS Please order **full-height** curtains only – and do take the rod or track right to the ceiling. Better yet, conceal the track inside a recessed pelmet.

21. CUSTOM-MADE... ANYTHING Sofas, furniture, lights, art, **you name it, you can have it custom made**. You will be surprised that the end result will be on par with a large retailers' offerings, both in terms of pricing and lead-times, but the end product will be perhaps more meaningful, and bang on brief. Many furniture suppliers also offer a custom service. All you have to do is ask. BUT: you need to be 100% across the design process and understand what the specifications mean. Double check that your item will fit through the doors (and in an apartment block, the lift too). →



Car-full o' fun

Coco Republic, Alexandria (Cocorepublic.com.au). Start with a truckload of possible cushion options... well, at the very least a car full. You always, always, need more than you expect, and the perfect colour combo you've been hoping for often fails. So expect the unexpected.

16

18

IC®



22

22. CUT THE CLUTTER, CRAP & CHAOS

Everything you own will be better for it. And so will your mental health. Go through your house, room by room, and seriously remove the crap.

Keep only things that are both functional and beautiful.

This is the single biggest thing you can do for your home and the really great news is you can usually do it in a day (OK, maybe a week). If you don't know where to start, take everything out, bar the basic big-ticket furniture items, and "interview" all the other items before they gain entry back into the room. "Do you really belong here?"



Organised life

Original James Tan "Silhouette" **desk** in Walnut, \$1795, Matt Blatt. Tobias **chair** in Grey, \$99, Ikea. Lucci Décor "Jensen" round **pendant** in Black/Smoke, \$129, Beacon Lighting. **ON DESK** Caran d'Ache desktop **pencil sharpener**, \$199.95, Notemaker. MacBook Pro **laptop**, from \$1599, Apple. Kate Spade gold acrylic **tape dispenser**, \$42.95, Notemaker. Black **tape** from Officeworks. Brass **paperweight**, \$90, The Minimalist. Vox **table lamp** in Brass, \$396, Fred International. **ON FLOOR** Norm wire **bin**, \$124.90, The Minimalist. **ON WALL** Vitra "Uten.silo" wall **storage unit**, \$650, Space; holding assorted **stationery** from Notemaker. Riddle by Swedese **magazine hanger**, \$220, Fred International. Assorted **books** and **magazines** from Notemaker and Ariel Booksellers. **WALL PAINT** Porter's Paints Ultra Flat acrylic in **Pretty In Pink**, \$95.30 for 4L, and **Aniseed**, \$102.70 for 4L.

Spot on

Kelly **ottoman** in Safari Dusk, \$1323, Jordan. Timber **crates**, \$129.80 for set of 3, Citta Design. **ON OTTOMAN** Marimekko **teapot**, \$99, Funkis. 365+ **teacup**, \$4.99, Ikea. **Book** from Ariel Booksellers. **ON CRATES** Volcanic **tumbler**, \$58, The Design Hunter; holding **cactus**, \$20, Terrace. Hay "Shapes" round **mirror** in Dusty Rose, \$433.40, and Hay wooden **hand**, \$48, Cult. **IN CRATES** Books from Ariel Booksellers. Jonny **skull**, \$39.95, Design Twins. Japanese Honeysuckle **candle**, \$28, Dear September. **BEDLINEN** Linen **quilt cover**, \$255 for queen, and Euro **pillowcases**, \$59 each, Major Minor Sydney. The Pop Classic **blanket**, \$129, Kate & Kate. **CUSHIONS** FROM FRONT Blueprint in **Light Pink**, \$42.95, and **Oxford**, \$49.50, Rapee. Lambskin leather in **Pink/Grey**, \$200, Urzon. Large rectangular in **Sunset**, \$255, Jordan. Esa in **Rose Pink**, \$59.95, Country Road. **ON FLOOR** Merino **sheepskin** in Cipria, \$135, Hides Of Excellence. **WALL PAINT** Bristol matt in **White**, \$64.75 for 4L. Porter's Paints ultra-flat acrylic in **Pretty In Pink** (spot), \$95.30 for 4L.

23. MIXING BEDLINENS A great bed is all about mastering the mix. **Let prints from different sheet sets collide.** Throw your bed fashions together like a fashion blogger's street style. If you still prefer white linens then make the cushions the accent – layer the same pattern from wallpaper to cushions to give it a modern edge, or make the cushions a single standout feature.

24. THREADCOUNT is often used as a **measure of a sheet's smoothness and durability.** Threadcount – it can go as high as 1000, hotel standard – refers to the number of threads woven into a square inch of fabric. Absolute top-of-the-line is **100% Egyptian cotton** – its long fibres produce sheets that are thin, extremely strong, and very luxurious and soft. Natural fibres like **Belgian linen**, made from the flax plant, create a heavier, more textured sheet than cotton. Linen drapes beautifully, and breathes, making it feel lovely to sleep in, warm and cosy in winter and cool in summer.

25. STORAGE Planning is the key to good storage. Be space-aware and "use" all the unused spaces. For lovers of books, magazines, ceramics, guitars, CDs, DVDs, kitchen accouterments, **say hello to joinery.** Joinery has gone viral and is inspiring household displays around the world. Joinery, bookshelves or storage display units can be designed to fit precisely what you need them to.

26. HOW TO USE SAMPLES I love a good sample. A sample pot, cutting, brushout, catalogue. Samples are a very useful tool – at the beginning of a project they represent possible options, a collection of ideas that are worthy of consideration. The sample becomes a reference for many other materials, too. As the project develops the samples represent a record of selections. Always **try and keep TWO samples** – one is a "working sample" used to reference colour and texture as the project develops. The other sample needs to stay in the master file. This sample will enable you to access the all-important code and colour numbers when you need to.

27. COLOUR METAMERISM

is a phenomenon that occurs when **colours change when viewed in different light sources.** Colour mutations can be avoided by "testing" or reviewing large samples of colour in the precise location that they are to be used. When viewing most samples, paint or carpet in particular, it's important to note that the colour will look darker in a small sample piece; conversely, when looking at an expanse of the same material it will look lighter. →

**Unused spaces?**

Use them to cut the clutter! Cappellini "Drop" **shelves** in Rose Pink, \$2150, Cult. **Books** from Ariel Booksellers.

25

**Personal touch**

Jacinta displays the art of mixing bedding at a client's home.

27



26. YOU MAY NOT NEED A SOFA IN THE LOUNGE Some lounge rooms look great without a sofa. Think boutique hotel lobbies, cocktail bars, restaurants, pop-up events. **Think luxe, over-scale chairs.** High-back, upholstered, vintage clubs. Even a pair of Eames lounges and ottomans can give you more lounging opportunities than a generous four-seater sofa.

27. HIRING PAINTERS Request various quotations based on your specifications, not an industry standard (which is generally two coats) – this way all the quotes should be comparable in terms of “product”. **Check out their van and their wardrobe.** If it’s sloppy, there’s a good chance their finishes on your house will be, too. Not to mention the way they care for your property while they’re painting. The very best paint teams won’t subcontract the job out, and the owner will be present, both on your job, and on the tools. Additionally, make sure you get what you pay for – if three coats are specified make sure three coats are applied.

28. EXTERIORS: A BIG NO-NO Don’t you dare **highlight downpipes** by painting them in a contrast colour!



Table talk

Replica Eames **coffee table** in Black, \$259, Matt Blatt. Holmegaard “Provence” **bowl** in Smoke, \$170, Funkis. Faceture **vase**, \$355, Designstuff. **Book** from Ariel Booksellers.



Conversational seating

Butterfly **chair** in Natural, \$1250, Funkis. Koppla swivel **armchair** in Caramel, \$2995, Matt Blatt. Como sling occasional **chair** in Black Oak/Taupe Leather, \$865, Globe West. Diamonds lightweight **pot**, \$250, Design Twins; holding **plant** from Terrace. Assorted **books** from Ariel Booksellers. **ON BOOKS** Clovis candle **vase** in Mint Bubble, \$49.90, Citta Design. Brass **paperweight**, \$90, The Minimalist. **ON MANTEL** Normann Copenhagen “Lumberjack” **candleholders**, from \$35 each, Funkis. Green **carafe**, \$28, Dear September; holding **foliage** from garden. **ON WALL** Gubi “Adnet” **mirror**, \$1199, Cult. Lucci Décor “Hendrick” swingarm wall-bracket **light**, \$199, Beacon Lighting. **WALL PAINT** Dulux Wash & Wear in **White On White**, \$74.95 for 4L. **FLOOR PAINT** Porter’s Paints limewash in **Eden**, \$44.50 for 1L, and aqua gloss enamel in **Summertime**, \$97.30 for 4L (mixed together).

29. WHITE PAINTS

There is a crazy abundance of whites on offer from all the different paint companies. The trick to getting the white right, the absolute first time, is all about joining the **CULT**. That’s right, **COLOUR, UNDERTONES, LIGHT, AND TEMPERATURE**. **Colour:** you need to understand the existing colours in the room including the colours of furniture, fabrics, fixtures, and fittings. **Undertones:** there are “colours” in white – whites can be broadly classified as cool whites or warm whites. **Light:** consider the light sources in the room, both from windows and lights. **Temperature:** is the room cool or warm? Check the orientation – north-facing rooms will need a completely different white to a south-facing one. **Cooler whites** tend to suit modern contemporary spaces with lots of windows. These whites tend to have blue or black undertones and are good at neutralising bright light. **Warmer whites** have yellow, brown, or red undertones and tend to suit older homes with few windows because they add a little heat or sunshine to cooler environment. Comparing whites side by side is misleading – you need negative or neutral space to understand the colour in your white. Use supersize samples that can be moved around, and always review colour at different times of the day and night, lights on and lights off.

29

30

30. DESIGN – FOCUS ON THE BIG PICTURE AS MUCH AS THE DETAILS

And so to our final topic. It's a biggie and the thing you always need to keep at the back of your mind. **Design is really about understanding a problem, or a goal.** Then it's about testing the solutions, and refining the options to find the most appropriate solution. **The real trick** is to balance the detail while still keeping your eyes on the big picture. Perfection is a series of small things done really well. So keep your "eyes on the prize". Happy decorating! 🍷

Painterly approach

At **Murobond** in Artarmon (Murobond.com.au), Jacinta examines paint samples for a project. The showroom is worth a detour – not only are the products spesh, but the space itself is a cut above the norm.

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bedroom...



lounge room...

living inspiration

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dining room...

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Block buster

On their second *Block* outing, Dea and Darren were intent on thinking outside the square – well, not always, as all those schmick mosaics in their main bathroom, shown here, prove. Mosaic glass Candy Black Ice tiles from Beaumont Tiles.

c+j



a+t



j+a



d+d



2015 sees the *The Block* return with yet another hair-raising renovating/styling marathon: **Triple Threat**

WHILE THE CHALET-LIKE exterior of the 1970s apartment block in Darling Street in Melbourne's South Yarra resembled ABBA's country retreat, inside it would have all the steaminess of their Swedish sauna. The colour of the 12-unit building should have put the teams on instant high alert. Bright red, it would signal a scary scenario only *The Block* producers could devise: they split the building into four apartments, each of three levels.

The challenge for each pair was to turn three ragtag apartments on as many storeys into one harmonious upmarket city pad – and always to keep the prospective buyer in mind. They didn't just have the building to contend with – there were three other teams, each determined to walk away rich, as well as minefields the mindful *Block* producers laid in their paths. And then there were the judges, Neale Whitaker, Shaynna Blaze and Darren Palmer, with an occasional appearance by real estate expert John McGrath, all lending a critical eye. →

TRIPLE THREAT

THE BLOCK

Young guns

He loves heavy woods, exposed concrete and brickwork. She loves recycled timbers and furniture and describes her signature look as "timeless French interiors with a slightly modern-industrial look".

CHARLOTTE AND JOSH

hands-on, very handy man, who loves getting his, er, hands dirty

self-confessed control freak, but owns this as a positive

FLAT 1



CHIRPY CHIPPY JOSH and food stylist Charlotte were only on simmer in the first three weeks. “Our design style is clean and simple,” Charlotte says. “We focus on using furniture and fixtures that are timeless and convey quality. We also focus on functionality. Our design has been described by the judges as ‘modern beach house’, with perfect simplicity.” But is laidback beach house the right look here, or will the tide go out on the couple’s chances?



One

Bedhead, bed and linens from Forty Winks. Courchevel throw in Silver from Coco Republic.

◀ WEEK 1 / GUEST BEDROOM

The artworks – three silk prints by Millie Cooper of Design By Mouse – were poppy and, yes, they conveyed the “street” idea clearly. But judges Neale Whitaker and John McGrath thought they were either too young or too casual for this city pad. But Darren loved the wall finish, the bedlinen and the bedsides. Still, the couple were just a nose away from the winners’ score.

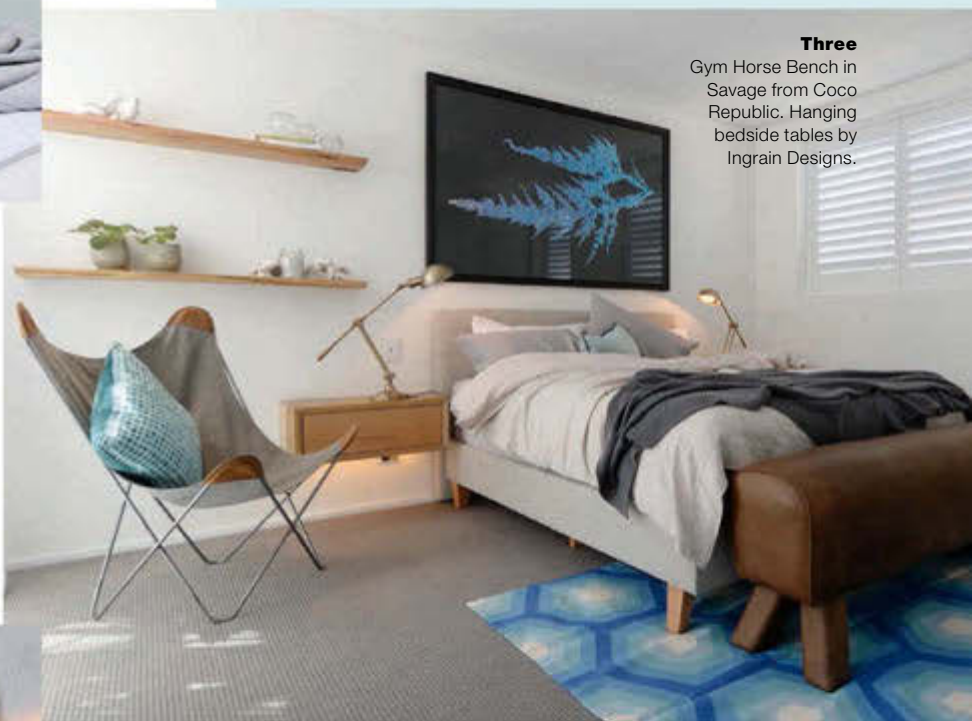
▼ WEEK 2 / MAIN BATHROOM

“Nice and simple” was Shaynna’s verdict, echoed by Neale: “Simple is a very good thing in a bathroom.” They agreed that minimalism requires attention to detail and this bathroom scrubbed up well on that count. She also gushed over the brushed metallic tapware – Sussex “Pol” from Reece – in brushed gunmetal. But perhaps the vanity could have done with a little more room beside that basin.



Two

Rifco vanity and Sussex “Pol” spout and basin from Reece. Looking Glass mirror from Mirror Mirror. Nu Marble Bianco tiles from Beaumont Tiles.



Three

Gym Horse Bench in Savage from Coco Republic. Hanging bedside tables by Ingrain Designs.

▲ WEEK 3 / SECOND BEDROOM

The muted bedlinen got a tick and so did the Icon Blue honeycomb rug from Fenton & Fenton – but things could have gotten a little sticky there. The judges said that normally they would hate that, but somehow it works. Neale loved the custom timber shelves (by Ingrain Design), but not the way they were styled: “It’s a little bit twee, a little bit bare.” Even the butterfly chair (the Soho, from Coco Republic), which he wasn’t normally a fan of, sat well in the tropical-style room. Timothy Oulton *Rhodomele* artwork from Coco Republic. →

Rearing to go

They see their style as contemporary with "a touch of rustic and shabby chic". Anastasia isn't afraid to "add some bling where appropriate" and likes to work with warm, calming, neutral tones.

**"i want things
done yesterday,"
she says. look
out, fellow
blockheads**

ANASTASIA AND TIM

**the level-headed
one; keeps
anastasia calm and
watches the budget**

FLAT 2



"OUR DECORATIVE STYLE is generally classic, with small elements of contemporary," Anastasia says. The couple from Adelaide don't let the grass grow under their feet. Perhaps rather worryingly for the other Blockheads, after buying their 1930s bungalow, just nine days later, these high-revving renovators had a new living room, dining room, main bedroom, second bedroom and bathroom. "Our inspiration for all our rooms is to create the feeling of being in a boutique hotel," she says.

Two

Custom timber vanity by Bayside Bathroom & Kitchen.



WEEK 1

GUEST BEDROOM

Their first offering left the judges in a stupor, who slated it for its blandness. And a fluffy stuffed cat on the windowsill left them baffled. Scotty stingingly summed up the judges' verdicts: "If you were trying to tell the judges this is a kid's room, then you haven't done enough. Feels like you're trying to be all things to all people and you have delivered a room that is nothing to no one." The only way from here was up.

One

Double Sunrise Over Sea bedhead by Mexsii. Aero pendant from Beacon Lighting. Cushions from Adairs.



WEEK 2 / MAIN BATHROOM

And up the couple went. Neale said this room was a 100 per cent improvement on the previous week and the couple had got their mojo back – he picked the svelte basin, the Alape "Circa", and the black Milli "Axon" basin mixer, both from Reece, as high points for this stylish room. And storage tragic Shaynna gave it a big tick on that account. The Carrara Bianco wall mosaics from Beaumont Tiles added to the elegance.

WEEK 3

SECOND BEDROOM

The duo just kept getting better, with this second bedroom winning them the gong in week three. Darren was transported by the Ethereal Duck Egg Grassweave wallpaper from Boyd Blue behind the bed, while the artworks and chic Jared table lamps, all from Coco Republic, and the shimmering sheers (in Gunmetal Grey, from BQ Design) just added to the elegance. It seemed Anastasia had achieved her aim of creating the boutique hotel look. →

WEEK 3 WINNING ROOM



Three

Bedding by Sheridan. The couple made the bedhead and bedframe in an earlier challenge.

Family values

"Modern country
farmhouse with a big
focus on functionality"
– that's the design philosophy
of this Queensland couple.

his endless
enthusiasm and
tendency to
play the clown
can try jess's
patience

JESS AND AYDEN

ayden would say,
"i'm bossy,
demanding and
always get my way"

FLAT 3

THE GOLD COAST RESIDENTS met at a music festival 10 years ago and have been creating their own special music ever since, but will they still be in harmony by the end of *The Block*? “Our style is simple, clean and natural. We like timber and a very neutral palette,” Jess says. “We have tried to create something that will appeal to a wide range of buyers. Our inspiration is our own personal taste.” If they follow through, there shouldn’t be too much to upset anyone there...

One

Bedding from Bed Bath N’ Table and Forty Winks. Maestro side tables from Matt Blatt.

WEEK 1 WINNING ROOM



◀ WEEK 1 / GUEST BEDROOM

What a stunning start – a win in week one. “A room with personality” was the judges’ universal verdict on this warm and welcoming bedroom. “Personality” was there in the wing-backed Hamilton buttoned bedhead, from Forty Winks, and the Ragnar pendants in Ash from Beacon Lighting, as well as an exposed brick wall, which the judges thought was entirely in keeping with an apartment in this area.

Two

Vanity and mirrored cabinets by Sabrina Shopfitting. Alape basin and Dorf tapware from Reece.



▼ WEEK 3 / SECOND BEDROOM

The judges agreed the leather headboard was the hero in this room, but knocked the couple for covering it up with all those cushions. Those Illuminate “Thin Wood” lampshades, too, from Spence & Lyda, would be great to wake up to and the generous rug, Berber Multi Zig Zag, from Hali, was a hit with Shaynna, a refreshing change from the “tea towel” rugs she had seen on past *Block* reveals. The custom oversized bedsides (by Sabrina Shopfitting) helped compensate for skimpy wardrobe space.

Three

Round and navy cushions from Mark Tuckey. S-fold curtains in Warwick Fabrics “Corfu Snow” from Carpet Court.



▲ WEEK 2 / MAIN BATHROOM

You can’t win ‘em all. The judges were lost for words when they entered this room – Neale and Shaynna thought it was too, too busy, the main culprit being the tile, the Mos Calacatta Hex, from Beaumont Tiles, which, although expensive, looked rather cheap when used on all four walls. Neale’s tenet of “less is more” might have been the lesson here. You can have too much of a good thing – just one wall of the sexy, exxy Hex would have been enough. →

a hands-on
chippy, perhaps
too much so –
no, dazza, you
can't do
everything

in the last
series, earned
the crown of
the block's
resident style
queen

Back for more

The D's are straight shooters and their call-it-as-they-see-it approach is at times divisive.

BRAVE OR BARMY? The jury's out on this duo's return to *The Block*, especially after they walked away with just \$10,000 after last year's auction. "Understated luxury" was Dea's summation of their look for Darling Street. "We always use the best-quality finishes, furnishings and artwork we can afford and give every room a feeling of luxury through accessories. We like the rooms to feel grown-up, but warm and casual enough to feel at home in."

WEEK 1 / GUEST BEDROOM ▼

The grasscloth wall treatment (Schumacher "Haruki Sisal" in Silver, from Grant Dorman) was an instant hit with the judges, with Darren rhapsodising that this wallpaper is "one of his favourite things in all existence". The couple's experience showed here. "It's a room that will appeal to everyone," Scott said. "It's been done by a couple that understands luxury is not about putting a lot of bling in a room... it's about colour and texture, and restraint." Dome Light porcelain pendants, from Mud Australia, added to the textural layering.

DEA AND DAZ

FLAT 4



Two

Clearwater "Formoso" bath and Rifco "Acqua" vanity from Reece.

WEEK 3 / SECOND BEDROOM ▶

If the last series was called Glasshouse, this could be called Grasscloth, Neale wryly observed. But that was a plus, especially when the Schumacher "Haruki Sisal", this time in Indigo, was used to such dreamy effect. While Neale labelled this boutique hotel-style room "genius", it gave Shaynna nightmares – calling it "gaudy", she focused her fury on the leopard-print headboard and the Eclipse industrial-style sconces, from Articulo, which, she said, didn't suit the room. 🐆



One

Bedhead from BQ Designs. Manchester from Hermon & Hermon. Cushions from Jardan.

◀ WEEK 2 / MAIN BATHROOM

The double Ds made a splash with this beauty – and it won them the week. The mosaic glass tiles, in Candy Black Ice, from Beaumont Tiles, delivered instant "oomph", Neale said. While others might have shunned that moody tile, this couple didn't hold back, but they avoided the mistake of placing it on all walls, which Jess and Ayden had done. And plenty of storage kept Shaynna smiling. The Sussex "Pol" tapware, from Reece, set into the mirror, was a smart touch.



Three

Curtains and bedhead by BQ Designs. Eclipse wall lights from Articulo.

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Inspiring spaces

They may be young, but the design graduates coming through are full of enthusiasm and fresh ideas, which is reflected in their workspaces. See more of Nikki Davey's studio over the page.

SO YOU WANNA BE A DESIGNER?

There's nothing like **fresh talent** to keep the design world evolving and interesting. Meet a bunch of talented designers and stylists who are **about to make their mark**

EACH YEAR, HUNDREDS of students descend on the design world. Most of the time they have made their way through courses – at universities, in private colleges, and sometimes online – in the hope they will learn enough to be able get an internship, assisting role or, even better, a paying job. But it's a competitive world. The ones who cut through usually have a combination of skill, persistence and a resolve to never ever give up, no matter how many rejections they receive. Here, we've hunted down the next wave of graduates to find out their secrets to staying strong, and how they plan to make their mark in the design world. →



Evolving aesthetic (right)

Scandinavian style is a major influence.

Below A few of Kelly's works in progress – a residential interior and hair salon.

**Steadfast style**

"Have fun while you're a student," Kelly says. "And seek as much advice from lecturers as you can."

**KELLY DOYLE**

ALMA MATER: BILLY BLUE COLLEGE OF DESIGN (Bachelor of Applied Design – Residential Interiors) **WHITEHOUSE INSTITUTE OF DESIGN** (Cert II Interior Decoration and Visualisation) **TAFE** (Cert III Design Fundamentals – Interior Design)

KELLY DOYLE IS NOT one to keep herself waiting for opportunities. Since graduating from three different design courses, she has done everything from working as an art runner on a film set, to working as a property stylist. Currently she is a design assistant for the homewares brand Have You Met Miss Jones, which involves helping to create upcoming collections and assistant styling for lookbook shoots.

Her **best advice** is not to give up when you get rejections. "I have had plenty! You must learn not to take everything to heart. Instead take it as constructive feedback," Kelly says. She also believes there is a lot you can **learn from internships**. "You can meet so many unbelievable, **interesting and talented people** if you put yourself out there." Kelly has interned for designers Amanda Talbot and Patty Hava. "They both gave me a perspective on design and styling that I did not gain while studying," she says. Other designers and firms she looks up to include Kelly Wearstler, Hecker Guthrie, Mim Design and Anna Carin. "I also love the styling work of Vanessa Colyer Tay," she adds. *Instagram @missskellydoyle* →



MONTANA VALICH

ALMA MATER: CATC Design School (Advanced Diploma of Interior Design)

ISCD (Diploma of Interior Styling)

STUDYING INTERIOR DESIGN was valuable for Sydney-based Montana Valich in a way that you might not expect. Half-way through she realised computer-based drawing and design work wasn't for her. "In a funny way **I learnt what I didn't want to do** when I was studying," she says. Montana has found assisting to be far more worthwhile, and got off to a good start with her first job: working for Alex Gordon at *Vogue Living*.

Over the years Montana has assisted many leading stylists, including Kirsten Bookallil, Lara Hutton, Lucy Tweed and Steve Pearce. "I made some great friends and learnt so much about styling, and interpreting and **understanding a brief**," she says.

After working as a junior at Ruth Levine Design and at Sharyn Storrier Lyneham's EDIT, Montana landed a role as market editor and stylist at *Donna Hay* magazine. In 2012 she moved to Melbourne briefly and worked at the Kerry Phelan Design Office. More recently Montana has made the leap to working as a stylist based on her own merits, and has styled the latest Walter G textiles range. Montana's **secret to success**? "Work on as many different shoots as possible – some will be very hands-on with lots of painting, building furniture and really getting your hands dirty!" Instagram @montanavalich

Clear confidence (above)

Montana's advice: "Always back yourself. You may be asked to do something and think that you have never done it before and will not be capable – just give it a shot!"



Inherited talent

Both of Montana's parents have creative backgrounds.

"My father has his own architectural practice so I guess you could say it was in my blood," she says.

Chairs from MCM House.
Table lamp from Ici Et Là.



Straight up (left)

Communication is key when working in the design world, Sarah Jade says. "No matter how big or small a job, when working for a client everything needs to be communicated clearly."

Top influences

Sarah Jade describes her current style as a mix of Scandinavian and Minimalism. She looks to Akin Creative, Anny Wang, Hay Design, Hedi Slimane and Genesin Studio for inspiration.



Design immersion

"Absorb yourself in everything and anything to do with design," Sarah Jade says. "Knowing a little about everything can get you a long way."

SARAH JADE COUSENS

ALMA MATER: Sydney Design School (Diploma of Interior Design)

TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE in her design course has paid off for Sarah Jade Cousens. She believes, to become a good designer/stylist, you should **"absorb yourself in everything and anything to do with design."** And she did just that. Through her interior design course at Sydney Design School she gained an internship at the homewares website Temple & Webster. She also was featured as the face of the school's cinema campaign.

While studying, Sarah Jade also assisting Sibella Court at The Society Inc and has gone on to work as an assistant on a Pepsi Max TV commercial, as well as rebranding Shepherd's Bakehouse, which included concept development and styling for its website and social media content.

"Push the boundaries and be as creative as you possibly can," Sarah Jade says. "Get as much work experience within the field as possible during your time studying – it makes such a difference going out into the real world as so much work is **word of mouth** in this industry." Sarah Jade's internship at Temple & Webster led to ongoing freelance work. She's now designing an espresso bar in Sydney's CBD and is also working on an interior styling project for a media house in Bondi. *Instagram @sarcuz* 📍



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eat

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140 **Forest feast**

Feed little imaginations and tummies with magical Easter treats and drinks

Into the woods

Alaska leads the search for chocolate eggs before their Easter feast. Turn the page to see what's on the menu. →

A whimsical outdoor scene in a forest. In the foreground, a child in a blue fuzzy vest and tan pants is running towards the right. To the left, a child in a leopard-print dress is sitting on a wooden table. Further back, another child is sitting on a wooden bench, wearing a white outfit and a crown. The table is set with food and drink. To the left of the table is a large, rustic armchair made of sticks. A hanging plant sculpture is visible in the background. The text 'My wild things' is written in a stylized font at the top left, and a paragraph of text is written below it. At the bottom left, there is a small section of text titled 'Catch me if you can!'.

My wild things

A little bit of whimsy and a lot of fun. Bring out your inner child with a **fairytale-inspired Easter feast** – hot cross buns and all!

Catch me if you can!

Let young imaginations run free in a magical land of make believe. Dining table from Mark Tuckey. Armchairs from Coco Republic. Hanging plant sculpture by Blooms By Mickey + Frankie. ➔





45
MINS

EASTER-EGG BASKET CUPCAKES

Makes 12

Prep time 30 mins

Cooking time 15 mins

Equipment 12 stiff-sided cupcake holders; baking tray; sieve; medium & large mixing bowls; whisk; spoon; skewer; electric beaters

1½ cups self-raising flour

½ cup caster sugar

Pinch salt

½ cup milk

¼ cup cream

1 egg

1 tsp vanilla extract

85g butter, melted

48 mini chocolate eggs,

half unwrapped, to serve

6 licorice straps, halved lengthways

Frosting

150g butter, softened

1 cup icing sugar

1½ tsp vanilla extract

1 Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan). Place 12 stiff-sided cupcake holders on baking tray.

2 Sieve flour, sugar and salt together into large mixing bowl. Place milk, cream, egg and vanilla in separate mixing bowl and whisk to combine.

3 Create a well in the centre of flour mixture and add liquid mixture and melted butter; whisk to combine. Spoon cupcake batter into holders and bake for 15 mins, or until a skewer inserted into the centre of a cupcake comes out clean. Remove from oven and stand for 10 mins before transferring to wire rack to cool.

4 Meanwhile, to make frosting, whip butter, icing sugar and vanilla in medium bowl with electric beaters for 5 mins until pale and fluffy.

5 Ice cupcakes then top each with four chocolate eggs (2 wrapped, 2 unwrapped). Place a licorice strap on inside of cupcake holder from one side to the other to create the "handle".

Beautiful baskets

Collect moss and twigs from the garden to scatter on the table for an added element of whimsy. Cake stand from West Elm. Gold rabbit from Garden Life.



Free spirits (below)

FROM LEFT All girls' headdresses from Elise Cameron-Smith. Fur coat from Bobo Choses. Pirate costume from Kido Store. Tutu from Papier D'Amour. Faux fur hooded coat with ears from ASOS. Bulldog mask from Kido Store. F.I.T.N "Wilma" dip-dye dress from Kido Store.



MONSTER FISH FINGERS WITH SIMPLE TARTARE

Makes 12 fish fingers

Prep time 25 mins

Cooking time 6 to 10 mins

Equipment Sharp knife; chopping board; food processor; whisk; 3 medium mixing bowls; large bowl; lined baking tray; cling wrap; spoon; large frying pan; tongs; paper towel

4 slices stale bread

½ bunch flat-leaf parsley leaves, chopped roughly

1 bunch chives, chopped roughly

750g skinless & boneless salmon

1 egg

1½ tbsp milk

Sea salt & ground white pepper

¾ cup plain flour

Vegetable oil, for shallow frying

Lemon wedges, to serve

Tartare

¾ cup whole-egg mayonnaise

1½ tbsp light sour cream

1½ tbsp chopped cornichons

1 tbsp finely chopped dill

2 tsp lemon juice

1 Place bread, parsley and chives in base of food processor and pulse to form a fine crumb.

2 Cut fish lengthways into 12 even strips (about 1.5cm to 2cm thick).

3 Whisk egg and milk together in medium mixing bowl. Tip flour into separate medium bowl and season with salt and pepper to taste. Tumble the breadcrumbs into large bowl.

4 Lightly coat one piece of fish in flour, dip in eggwash and then coat in breadcrumbs. Place on lined baking tray and repeat with remaining fish pieces. Cover and refrigerate for at least half an hour.

5 Make tartare Combine mayonnaise, sour cream, cornichons, dill and lemon juice in separate medium bowl. Season with salt and pepper, and stir to combine.

6 Pour 1cm of oil into large frying pan over medium high heat. Cook fish fingers in 2 batches for 1 min each side until lightly golden. Remove fish from pan and drain on paper towel. Serve with tartare sauce and lemon wedges. →



Let the wild rumpus start! (above)

Jake is set for an adventure in his *Where The Wild Things Are* "Max" costume from Costume Box. Springbok hide from NSW Leather Co. Wooden eggs from Elise Cameron-Smith. Peter the Rabbit from Matt Blatt.

Left Lewis can't resist tucking into a giant chocolate egg – yum! Feather headdress from Papier D'Amour.



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45
MINS

LIME SPIDERS

Makes 500ml cordial

Prep time 10 mins + cooling

Cooking time 5 mins

Equipment Vegetable peeler; medium saucepan; spoon; sieve; jug; serving glasses; straws; long spoons

8 limes

1 cup caster sugar

1 cup water

2 drops of natural green food colouring (optional)

Chilled soda water

Vanilla ice-cream, to serve

1 Remove zest of limes using vegetable peeler, leaving white pith behind. Squeeze limes to get $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of juice. Add zest and juice to saucepan with sugar and water. Bring to a simmer over medium heat,

stirring until sugar has dissolved. Remove from heat and set aside for 30 mins to cool and infuse.

2 Strain cordial into jug to remove zest. Add food colouring, if using, and stir. Fill glasses $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way up with soda water. Add cordial to taste and drop in a scoop of ice-cream. Serve with straw and long spoon.

Ghostly potion

Tree cross-sections make great stands for ornaments and candles. Timber pirate ship from Elise Cameron-Smith. Votive from Country Trader. Gold spoon from West Elm. Cowhide rug (used as tablecloth) from Matt Blatt.

Enchanting eggs

The perfect dessert to eat while hunting for eggs. Cake stand from Ikea. Bunny eggcup from O'Connell Street Merchants. Candlestick from Garden Life.

CHOCOLATE MOUSSE EGGS**Makes 12****Prep time 40 mins****Cooking time 10 mins****+ chilling**

Equipment Kettle; microwave-safe bowl; spoon; 12 x 9cm egg moulds; pastry brush; medium saucepan; small, medium & large mixing bowls; electric beaters

440g milk chocolate, chopped**120g** white marshmallows**300g** white chocolate, chopped**2½** tbsp boiling water**2** cups thickened cream

Natural yellow food colouring

1 Place milk chocolate in microwave-safe bowl and microwave for 2 to 3 mins on medium power, stirring every 30 secs, until almost melted. Remove from microwave and stir until smooth. Cool slightly.

2 Coat moulds with a thin layer of melted chocolate using pastry brush (make sure chocolate is spread evenly up to the sides). Remove excess chocolate from base of each mould and refrigerate for 15 mins to set. Apply a second coat of chocolate in each mould and refrigerate until required.

3 Make mousse Place marshmallows, white chocolate and boiling water in medium saucepan over low heat. Stir for 6 to 8 mins until marshmallows have almost dissolved. Remove from heat and continue to stir until smooth. Transfer to large mixing bowl to cool completely.

4 Meanwhile, gently remove chocolate eggs from moulds. (You may need to fill the sink with warm water and dip the underside of the tray to loosen

chocolate.) Return moulds to trays and place back in fridge.

5 Place cream in medium bowl and whip with electric beaters to form soft peaks. Fold $\frac{1}{4}$ of cream through marshmallow mixture to loosen, then gently fold through remaining cream.

6 Remove $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of mousse and set aside. Spoon remaining mousse into chocolate moulds.

7 Fold a few drops of yellow food colouring into reserved mousse. Dollop a small spoonful into each egg and flatten slightly to form yolk shape. Refrigerate for 2 hrs to set before serving. →

tip | This mousse contains no raw egg, so is suitable for young children and pregnant women.



1+
HR



2+
HRS

SAVOURY HOT CROSS BUNS

Makes 12

Prep time 35 mins + proving

Cooking time 45 to 50 mins

Equipment Fine grater; sharp knife; chopping board; sieve; 2 large mixing bowls; spoon; clean tea towel; frying pan; lined baking tray; small bowl; piping bag; pastry brush

2½ cups bread flour, plus extra for dusting

1½ tsp instant dried yeast

1½ tsp bread improver

1 tsp salt

1 cup finely grated parmesan

¾ cup warm milk, plus 1 tbsp extra

50g butter, melted

2 eggs, beaten

2 tsp olive oil

2 brown onions, peeled & sliced

1 tbsp brown sugar

180g rindless bacon, sliced thinly

¼ cup plain flour

2 to 3 tbsp water

Melted butter, to serve (optional)

Surprise inside

Use a stool as a table – they're just the right height for little ones. Stool from Mark Tuckey. Wire tray from Dunlin. Candleholder from Ikea. Boat ornament from Elise Cameron-Smith.

1 Sieve flour, yeast, bread improver and salt into large mixing bowl, stir through parmesan. Make a well in the centre and add milk, half of melted butter and all but 1 tbsp of the eggs (this will be used later to brush the tops); stir to combine.

2 Place dough on lightly floured surface and knead for 12 mins, or until elastic. Place into large bowl, coated lightly with oil, cover with tea towel and set aside in a warm place for 1 hr to double in size.

3 Meanwhile, heat olive oil and remaining butter in frying pan over medium-high heat. Add onions and sugar; cook for 8 mins before adding the bacon. Cook for a further 8 to 10 mins, stirring regularly, until mixture has caramelised. Remove from heat and allow to cool.

4 Remove air from dough by punching once or twice (knocking back). Place dough on lightly floured work surface and knead lightly. Cut dough into 12 even pieces, flatten into discs and place a spoonful of onion mixture into the centre of each. With clean hands, pinch dough over mixture to create a parcel. Place pinched side down onto lined baking tray 2cm apart. Set aside in a warm place for 20 mins to prove again.

5 Preheat oven to 190°C (170°C fan). Combine flour and enough water in small bowl to make a thick paste, then spoon into piping bag. Combine extra tbsp of milk with reserved egg. Brush tops of buns with milk wash and pipe a cross over each. Bake for 25 to 30 mins, or until golden. Serve warm, brushed with melted butter, if liked.

Hop to it

These tasty pies will soon disappear down the rabbit hole. Rabbit bust from Coco Republic. Glass cloche from The Country Trader. Gold cutlery from West Elm. Bird's nest from Seasonal Concepts.



1+
HR

BUNNY EAR CHEESY VEGETABLE PIES

Makes 12

Prep time 35 mins

Cooking time 1 hr 10 mins

Equipment Small sharp knife; chopping board; vegetable peeler; grater; fork; medium saucepan; whisk; spoon; lined baking tray; pastry brush; 12 x ½-cup capacity muffin tray; teaspoon

30g butter

2 tsp olive oil

1 leek, sliced

2 tsp thyme leaves

1½ tbsp flour

¾ cup vegetable stock

¾ cup milk

¾ cup grated tasty cheese

1 small carrot, peeled & grated

1 medium potato, peeled & grated

1 medium zucchini, grated

1 corn cob, kernels removed

¾ cup frozen baby peas

Sea salt & ground white pepper

6 sheets storebought shortcrust pastry

1 egg, beaten

Olive oil spray

1 Preheat oven to 200°C (180°C fan).

2 Heat butter and olive oil in saucepan over medium heat. Add leeks and thyme and cook for 8 mins, or until translucent. Add flour

and cook for a further 2 mins before adding stock; whisk to remove any lumps. When smooth, add milk.

Cook for 5 mins until thickened and creamy. Add cheese and stir to melt.

3 Add carrot, potato, zucchini and corn, and cook for 10 mins until potatoes and carrots are almost tender. Remove from heat, stir through peas and season with salt and pepper to taste. Allow to cool.

4 Meanwhile, cut 24 bunny-ear shapes that are 7cm long out of one of the pastry sheets. Trace the insides of the ear with the tip of the knife making sure you don't cut all the way through. Fold the tips of 12 ears over to form the floppy

ear. Lay on lined baking tray, brush lightly with beaten egg and bake for 15 to 18 mins until golden. Remove from oven and allow to cool on tray.

5 Spray muffin tray with olive oil. Cut rounds from remaining pastry, large enough to slightly overlap the holes (approximately 12cm). Line muffin tray with pastry rounds then fill with cooled filling. Cut lids (approximately 8cm) and seal edges with handle of teaspoon; trim. Poke two holes using a small sharp knife about 1.5cm apart (this is where the ears will go after cooking) and bake for 45 mins until pastry is golden.

6 Remove from oven. Insert two ears in the top of each pie. Serve. **•**

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outside

LOVE YOUR OUTSIDE SPACE, TOO!

Breaking out

Indoor plants are making a comeback in contemporary interiors – and in surprising ways... *Turn the page to check them out.* →

150 Cool indoor plants

Check out six imaginative ways to incorporate plants in your interior – they'll grow on you!



Wild and free

Various pots, dishes and vases perfectly suit this relaxed, airy grouping. FROM LEFT Asparagus fern (just visible), *Juncus effusus* rush (terracotta pot), papyrus (large glass vase), dill weed (white vase), *Soleirolia soleirdii* or baby's tears (small white dish) and *Juncus effusus* 'Spiralis' or corkscrew rush (smaller glass vase).

COOL INDOOR PLANTS

Check out these green ideas (that are **perfect for renters**, too)

renter tip **INSTEAD OF HANGING A CRATE ON A WALL,**
DISPLAY IT FLAT ON A TABLE AND PACK IT WITH BOTTLES AND JARS
OF PLANTS AS DONE HERE



MINI GREEN WALL

Place soil and **plants in jars** and bottles, then stack on sides in a wall-hung, painted crate, securing with strong double-sided tape or sticky dots – try brands like Scotch, Sellotape or 3M. To water, simply **spritz with a spray bottle**. You can also include some empty vessels so the plants aren't too crowded.

WATER GARDEN (OPPOSITE PAGE)

Displaying various **grass-like plants**, such as sedges and rushes, together creates a light, unstructured look. These moisture-loving plants don't mind wet feet, so the water doesn't have to drain away. Displaying in glass vases adds to the light and airy feel. →

Bottled goodness

Indoor plants have health benefits – they purify the air. FROM TOP Philodendron, succulent, ivy, asparagus fern, maidenhair fern, ivy and mini cactus (in pot).

Pottering around

FROM LEFT Flowering cactus and succulents *Sedum* and *Echeveria* are potted in different vessels.



Land of Lilliputians

A leafy philodendron dresses up a side table, while a flowering cactus (top back) adds a flash of colour to the arrangement.



Still life

Tiny cacti and succulents hardly need any water, which is why they're not confined to life in a pot. Create a still life like this one, with plants on spoons.



renter tip MINIATURE SUCCULENTS AND CACTI
ARE IDEAL FOR SMALL HOMES WHERE SPACE IS TIGHT

THE LOW DOWN

Don't restrict your display surfaces to floors, windowsills or shelves – create a playful **mini plant vignette** on a small, low table – and don't be shy about including a random object in the show, like our miniature chair. The pots don't all have to be terracotta, either. Have a fossick through your cupboards for pretty teacups, ornate glasses and snazzy dessert bowls as substitutes for traditional styles.

renter tip YOU MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PAINT OR HANG ART TO DECORATE YOUR WALLS, BUT YOU CAN TRAIN A CLIMBING PLANT UP A LEANING LADDER, WIRE GRID OR COATRACK

HIGH ACHIEVERS

Climbing plants are good fun! They may seem unruly, but you can easily guide them in the direction you want – like this plant, which has been gently twisted around a vintage stepladder. Many **climbing plants** are easy to grow – just ask your local nursery which ones are suitable for growing inside. →

Living sculpture

Ivy (*Hedera helix*) twists around a ladder, creating a magnificent living display.



renter tip FOR A SIMILAR EFFECT OF GREENERY AT EYE LEVEL, POSITION GROUPED MAIDENHAIR FERNS ON TOP OF TALL CUPBOARDS OR UP IN BOOKSHELVES

Babylon dreaming

Maidenhair ferns in terracotta pots bring life to the dining area, and, like all plants, have a calming air about them, which is good for mental health, too.

HANGING GARDEN

Floating greenery above the dining table creates visual interest in the space. A large metal plate with holes (look in your local hardware store for something similar), was suspended from the ceiling using chains. 🌿

pillow talk

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SEASON
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k&h

KITCHEN & BATHROOM SPECIAL

Info & inspo

We've gathered all the style inspiration and product information you need for your kitchen or bathroom project. Turn the page to get started. →

DETAILS TO LOVE

BLADE WALL

If you need to divide a space into zones, but not block light, a blade wall does the job without going to the ceiling.

TILES

These green mosaics take the moody, industrial bathroom to another level.

VERTICAL GARDEN

If you install a vertical garden – or any type of garden – in the bathroom, choose plants that love a humid environment.

SEATING

Placing a chair in the bathroom is as useful as it is decorative.

BATHROOMS TO LOVE

Be inspired by these **lust-worthy bathrooms**, packed with clever ideas

Green room (left)

The vertical garden is a beautiful feature in this open-plan bathroom.

Store it all (below)

Galvanised-steel shelving stacked with baskets provides ample storage.

INDUSTRIAL/GARDEN

Overall, this is a pretty luxurious bathroom. It's huge, it has a seating area, a fabulous footed bath and an exquisite colour palette. But, would you believe, many of the items in it come from Ikea. Take the washbasin, for example, on one side of the blade wall, or the **galvanised-steel shelving** used for storage on the other. This bathroom proves you don't have to spend a lot of money to achieve a creative look.

One of the most dramatic features is the blade wall covered in **green mosaic tiles**. It separates the bathing area from the dressing area and sets the colour scheme for the space. A lush vertical garden and nearby planters echo the verdant hue and lift the otherwise industrial decor. The **freestanding tub** in gleaming white is also a contrasting element while the floor-mounted rainshower is another five-star touch. →





DETAILS TO LOVE

MARINE PLYWOOD

Timber looks great, but isn't always great for the bathroom. Marine-grade plywood, as the name suggests, is up to the job in the wettest of rooms.

MIRROR TRIO

Instead of having one large mirror, here three smaller vintage mirrors have been grouped together, adding decoration to the space.

TIMBER TRIM

The shelf, vanity and cistern casing are made from the same warm-toned timber to add another decorative layer and create visual continuity.

BATH CADDY

Bath caddies are so practical, especially if flat surfaces around the bath are limited. In fact, more baths should have them.

bath caddy

Two in one

A shower over the bath is a great space-saver for small bathrooms where you might think only one or the other is possible.



Mirror, mirror, mirror on the wall

A group of three smaller mirrors take up the same space as one larger one, but are more decorative – especially in pretty vintage designs like these ones.

TIMBER / SIMPLE

This pared-back space has elements of a Japanese bath house. The slate-tiled bath with slatted-timber bath caddy and the Wabi-sabi aesthetic offer influences from the East, while the tapware and lighting designs hark from the West. As this is a wet-room, the walls and toilet cistern have been clad in marine plywood, and to keep with the **honest design**, all the screws have been left exposed. The **marine ply cladding** and timber vanity and shelving impart a warm, textural feel, which is needed in such a minimal space. Personality is added, too, through the use of **vintage items**, such as the collection of old mirrors, the wall clock and other secondhand containers. →



PATTERN / BLACK

There's a **classic undercurrent** going on in this bathroom – white subway tiles, cast-iron claw-foot bath, plantation shutters – but the decorative details are completely contemporary. The beautiful patterned tiled walls and floors are the focal point, but the stars are the **black accents** – lighting, tapware and towel rails. The vanity is another nod to modern design with dual square-shaped sinks on a **floating timber shelf**, as is the discreet glassed-in shower recess beside it. →

DETAILS TO LOVE

MINI LAMP

A Tolomeo "Pinza" lamp in Black was clipped on to the cabinet door and is perfect for task lighting.

CABINET PANELLING

Tongue-and-groove panelling has been given a modern makeover with matt white paint. Here, it bridges classic and contemporary styles.

TWO TILES

You can use a patterned tile over a large area as long as you temper it with a plain. These patterned ones are Circulaire encaustic cement tiles in Faun & White from Bespoke Tile & Stone.

STOOL

Having a stool or side table near a freestanding bath gives you somewhere to place toiletries, a book or a glass of bubbly.

Open vanity (above)

Instead of a traditional vanity, a floating bench in oak makes the bathroom feel larger by not taking up too much room.

Shower style (right)

The patterned tiles extend into the shower recess. A glass door allows for visual flow throughout the space.

patterned tiles



Bathing beauty

Bathtime essentials can be kept within reach on a stool beside the bath.

Beautiful black

Black towel rails and tapware give this bathroom an edgy look while still maintaining a timeless feel.



OPEN / LUXE

Combining a bathroom and bedroom in one **open-plan** area is tricky, but when done well, can be a dream to live in. Here, the space has been divided up by a **cubicle that houses a dressing area and a shower**.

On one side of the cubicle is the sleeping zone, and on the other – by the shower – is the bathing area complete with a freestanding egg-shaped bath. The four spaces are connected by a swathe of built-in joinery along the wall under the windows. They're also linked through the **simple palette of finishes**: concrete flooring, white walls and timber joinery. Touches of black in the window frames and spotlights on tracks ground the scheme. ●

Mixer and spout

The bath mixer is wall-mounted, but the spout is floor-mounted – a beautiful look if you have the space.

DETAILS TO LOVE

TRACK LIGHTING

By installing spotlights on tracks, lighting can be positioned to highlight specific areas or angled away to create moody shadows.

BATHTUB

The freestanding egg-shaped bath adds a curvaceous feature to the angular bathroom – not to mention a touch of luxury!

MARBLE BASIN

The marble is a top-mounted piece – a great way to add marble to your bathroom if a large marble surface, as in a whole vanity, is not an option.

WINDOW TREATMENTS

This decor is minimal, but with so many windows, window treatments are essential. The solution is roller blinds that are visually unobtrusive, but provide privacy and filter light.



shower cubicle

Concrete warm

Underfloor heating makes the concrete flooring beautiful to walk on, plus it heats the bathroom and bedroom, too.



Off line

The basin was positioned off centre to the window above it. It helps to add visual interest to the minimal space.

Made of stone

The carved-marble basin is as much a visual delight as it is a practical essential.



KITCHENS TO LOVE

Here are four **fabulous kitchen styles** full of ideas to steal

Mix master

An unusual mix of materials and colours come together to create a kitchen that's as visually impressive as it is functional.

DETAILS TO LOVE

BLUE CABINETRY INTERIOR

The interior of all the cabinetry is made from Laminex in a deep blue called Infinity. It provides a pop of colour when doors and drawers are opened.

MAJOR MARBLE

Marble comes in many colours and effects and can add a grand decorative impact to your kitchen. The one used here is Calacatta "Viola" from Euromarble.com.au

BRASS TRIM

The curved-triangle benchtop has been trimmed in brass to go with the column leg and add a little metallic glamour to the predominantly architecturally rectilinear space.

ROCKSTAR / COLOUR

The focal point of this kitchen, by architect Scott Weston, is a glamorous **brass-trimmed island bench** made from Calacatta marble. It sits in front of a blue feature wall on which an artwork, *Post Alien Speedlight* by Peter Maloney, hangs. The sculptural Serge Mouille wall light is mounted on this wall, too – it fills the kitchen void and provides flexible lighting to the island unit. Cabinetry is finished in timber laminate, but open the cupboards and drawers and you'll find they're made from **blue Laminex**, chosen for its durability and **pure visual delight**. As for appliances, the owner already owned Liebherr fridges and an Ilve oven/cooktop, so they were worked into the design rather than needlessly upgrading. →

**Feeling blue**

A set of blue Le Creuset mini casseroles complements the blue interior of the pot drawer.

linen room divider

Two in one

A white linen curtain separates the kitchen from the living area, but is usually pulled back to maintain the open feel in the space.

All lit up

The kitchen features a combination of lighting – strip LEDs along the service panel and a manoeuvrable Tolomeo ceiling light over the island bench.

**WHITE / MINIMAL**

When the brief is for a clean, modern, minimal kitchen, the solution is white, white, white. In this space, it's been applied to the joinery, benchtops and splashbacks, with a pale grey floor to anchor the look. The central **island features storage on both sides** – a mix of deep and shallow drawers to keep a variety of kitchen essentials. Along the back wall, the cabinetry spans the length of the room, making the kitchen feel larger than it is. What looks like cupboards up top is actually a fixed service panel to hide pipes and wiring that run through the house. **LED strip lighting** was installed on top and underneath it. To maintain the streamlined look, appliances are integrated into the joinery and the benchtops are kept predominantly clear. Only a few accessories adorn the room – some white and wood homewares on the benchtops, a white scarf-draped coatrack and a black and white beanbag on the floor nearby. →

DETAILS TO LOVE**WHITE SINK**

In keeping with the strict palette of the space, even the kitchen sink is white – it's made from Corian and was moulded into the benchtop.

PAINTED FLOORBOARDS

Instead of being sanded and stained, the floorboards have been painted in a glossy pale grey to hide any imperfections.

OVERHEAD LIGHTING

The Tolomeo "Sospensione Decentrata" ceiling light can be moved and angled to maximise task lighting, which is perfect for food preparation.

COOKER ON ISLAND

Having the Smeg cooker on the island instead of the back wall allows the cook to interact with others in the living room beyond.

**Cooktop decor**

The Smeg gas cooktop is positioned on the island bench and decorated with a sweet monochrome pot.



Hello yellow!

The frames on all the doors and windows were finished in yellow, adding a contemporary edginess to the home.

HIPPY / DRAMATIC

As much as this kitchen has a high-end style – slick black appliances, marble sink and floor-to-ceiling art in the adjoining dining zone – it has a bit of a hippy twist to it. **Plants** are grouped together **en masse** – a major design feature of the kitchen – their foliage spilling over benchtops and shelves, and most of the crockery is rustic stoneware with a handmade aesthetic. The earthy look is snapped back to edgy with the bright yellow doorframes in the dining zone. Large black and small white floor tiles create a stripy design feature through the open-plan space. Slate tiles were also used to clad the kitchen workspace. As for benchtops, they're made from plywood, a **dramatic contrast** to the Carrara marble sink. Open shelving acts as storage in this kitchen with caddies and trays used to corral smaller items. Also open are the **plywood shelves hanging** from the ceiling. Some hold plants others play host to assorted jars and pantry items. →



Fine dining

The dining table was custom made from ash timber and a large slab of granite. The Artek chairs are by Alvar Aalto.

DETAILS TO LOVE

HANGING SHELVES

Plywood shelves are suspended from the ceiling by metal chains and create more surface area for storage and display.

GREENERY

Plants are displayed in ceramic baskets on hanging shelves and across the benchtops. It adds a colourful and textural dimension to the space.

COPPER UTENSILS

As pretty as they are practical, copper utensils add a touch of glimmer and metallic warmth. Koskela.com.au has some lovely ones.

MARBLE SINK

This double sink includes a draining surface on the side. The surface will build up a patina over time, which is part of the beauty of marble.

♥ love the hanging garden

Green divide
Masses of plants on hanging shelves curtain the kitchen, enclosing it from the other zones in the open-plan layout.

CONCRETE / RAW

This inner-city kitchen is all about **raw materials** and a refined utilitarian feel. Thick concrete benchtops and recycled timber joinery impart a heavy, masculine look, but they're tempered by the pure white walls and natural light that floods into the space. Commercial-style appliances were chosen to hold their own against the **chunky joinery**, their stainless-steel finishes tying in with the metal handles on doors and drawers. The layout is open with the kitchen cascading into the dining and living areas beyond, and **decoration is minimal**, but a violet-grey roman blind is enough to soften the mood. ●

Cohesive colour

The concrete benchtops and steel fittings pick up the grey tones in the timber cabinetry.



Material combo

While the rest of the home has floorboards, the kitchen features a concrete floor so there's a balance of materials.

DETAILS TO LOVE

RAW FINISH

This kitchen is crafted from reclaimed timber, but you can get a similar effect with timber veneers. Try places like Newageveneers.com.au

CONCRETE FORM

Concrete benchtops are cast off site then installed. You can get them made to any size or shape specifications, tinted with coloured oxides or have aggregates mixed in for visual effect.

COOKER

The cooker used here is a Wolf 1219mm dual fuel range. Wolf appliances used to be found only in professional kitchens, but now they're made for residential set-ups, too. Multyflex.com.au

STOOLS

A modern kitchen often benefits from a touch of vintage, and here it's a pair of adjustable metal and timber bar stools. They accessorise the space.

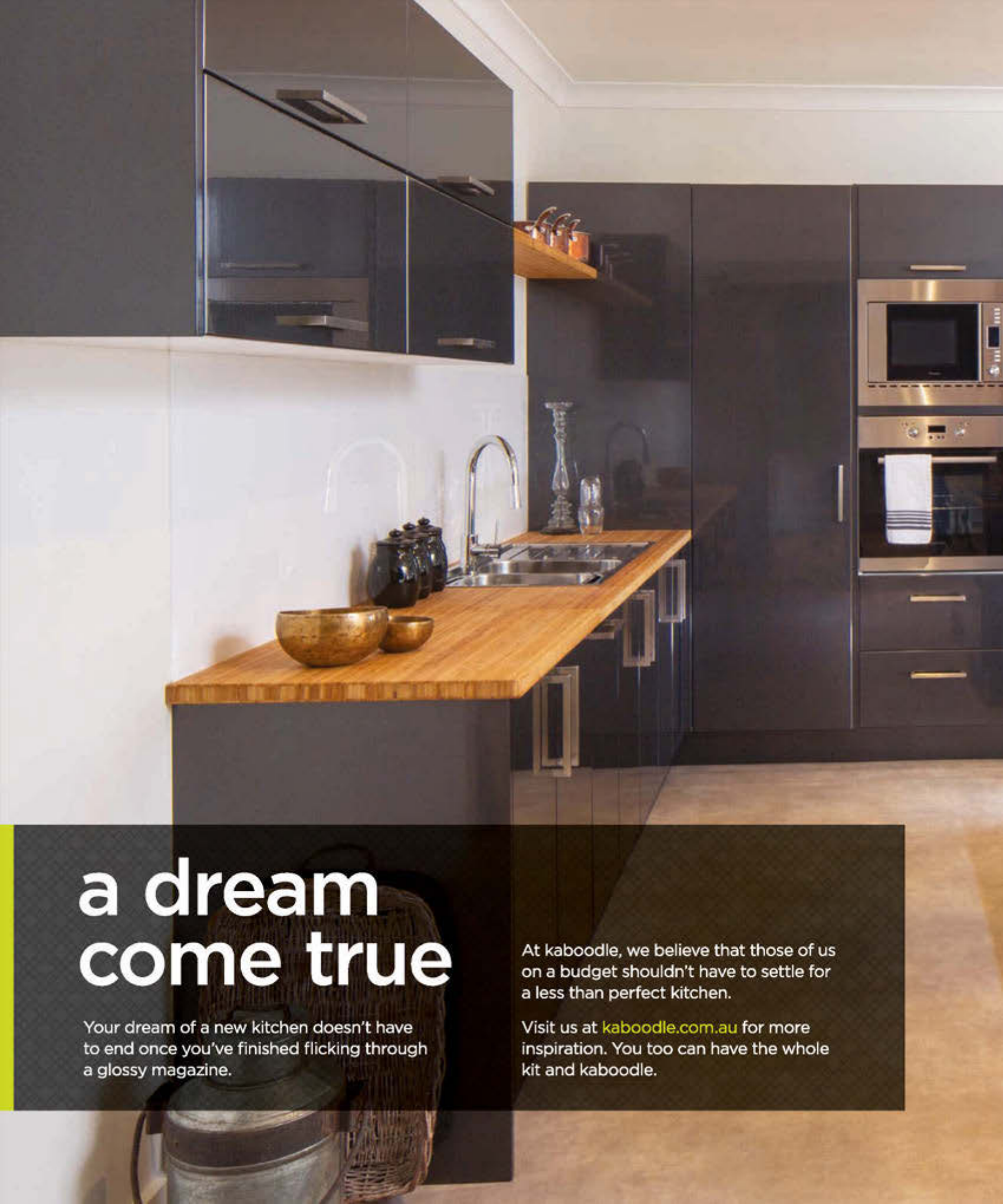
MIXER TAP

The gooseneck mixer tap, and its mini-me filtered-water tap beside it, is a curvaceous contrast to the angular design of the kitchen.



Breakfast time

A breakfast bar was positioned in front of a window for casual meals with a view.



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WELL PLANNED

A townhouse bought off the plan has been fitted with a kitchen that makes **perfect use** of the layout and available space

DRAWER DEDICATED TO ALL THINGS "TEA"

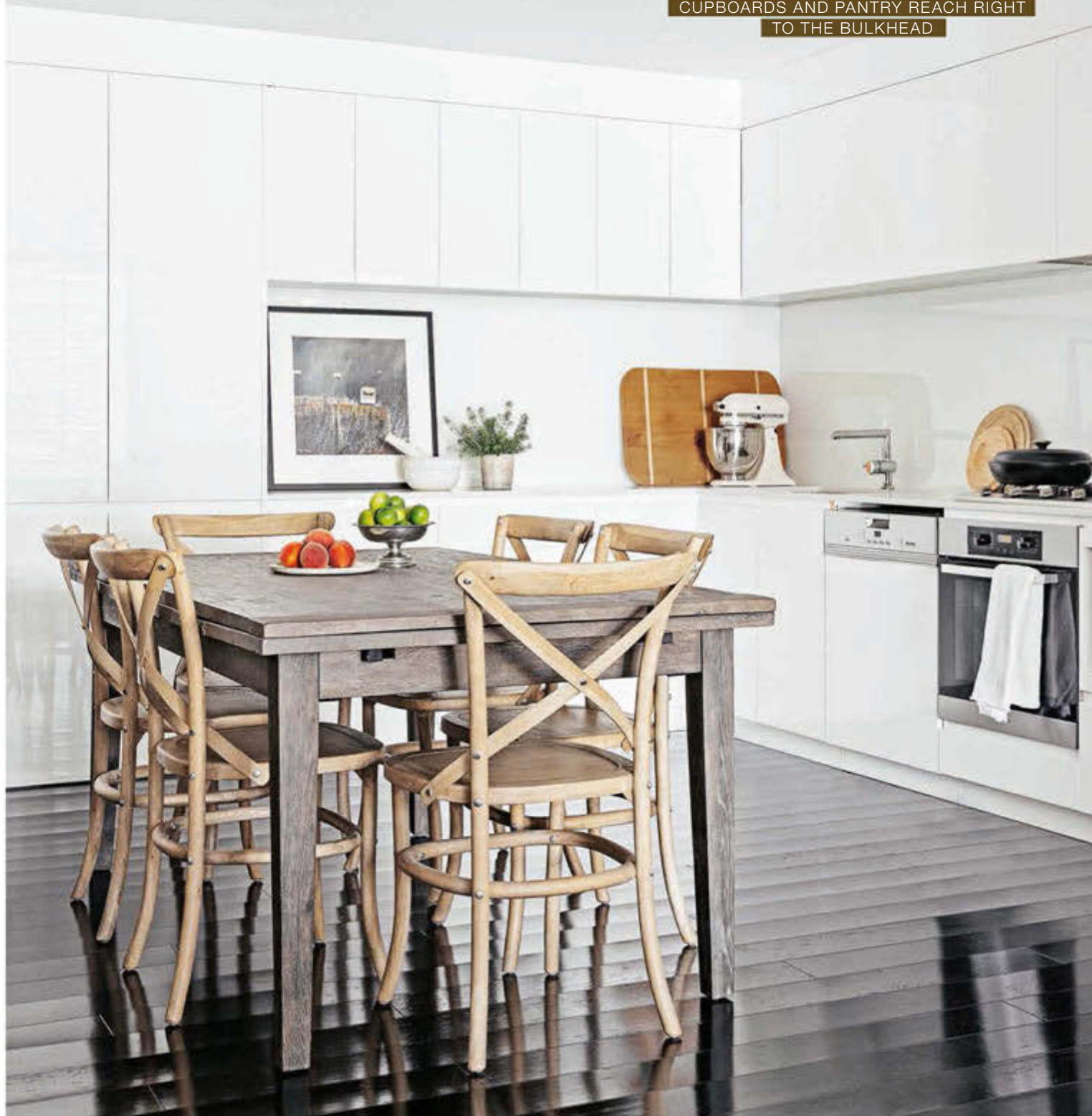
Super storage

A Max Sparrow "Manhattan" touch buffet is lined with blue linen fabric and is home to oft-used crockery pieces. "Everything's spread out, easy to access and you can see everything you want," homeowner Elle Lovelock says. The top drawer houses Elle's special-occasion cutlery.

Practically perfect

Architect Conrad Lowry was careful to maximise storage in the kitchen. "In fact, there couldn't be more storage considering the kitchen's size," Elle says. Lighting is a combination of dimmable downlights and LED strip lighting. Elle is in two minds about putting a rug underneath the table; she likes the idea in principal but is concerned about having carpet so close to the kitchen. →

CUPBOARDS AND PANTRY REACH RIGHT
TO THE BULKHEAD



INSPIRATION

HIGH-SHINE 2-PACK JOINERY IN THE PUREST OF WHITES MATCHES THE WALLS AND SEAMLESS SPLASHBACK. TEXTURE IS INTRODUCED THROUGH RUSTIC TIMBER FURNITURE AND SIMPLE BUT FUNCTIONAL FOOD-PREP ACCESSORIES

MATERIALS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
Walls painted in Dulux Wash & Wear in **Vivid White**, \$74.95 for 4L. Adam Cornish for Alessi "Trinity" **bowl** in White, \$235, Top3 By Design. Jacquard Français "Carâteres" **tea towel** in Stone, \$27, Top3 By Design. Quick-Step "ARC" bamboo **flooring** in Java, \$68 a sq m (supply only), Choices Flooring. Caesarstone Classico in **Frosty Carrina** (for benchtop), \$750 a sq m (installed), Caesarstone. Glass **splashback** in Vivid White, \$413 a sq m, Bunnings.



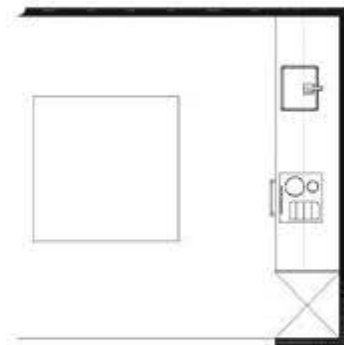
CONRAD LOWRY

PRINCIPAL Cdl Design. CdlDesign.com.au

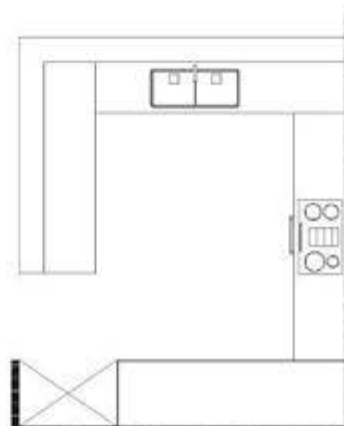
MEET CONRAD, an interior architect, who was born in Singapore, where his father, an Australian army officer, was posted. As a child, Conrad also spent time in Indonesia, but finished his schooling in Canberra. He moved to Sydney in 1990 where he worked in hospitality management until 1996, then began a teaching degree at uni. After taking a History of Architecture elective he was hit with the proverbial bolt of lighting... and today runs an interior architecture practice. With registered architects consulting in the practice, CDL Design specialises in providing a complete design service.



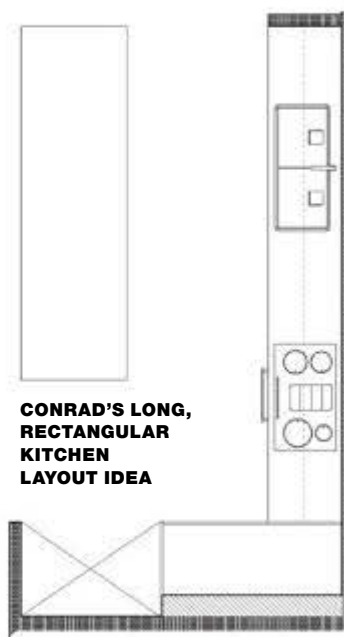
ALTERNATIVE FLOORPLANS



CONRAD'S SMALL, SQUARE KITCHEN LAYOUT IDEA



CONRAD'S STANDARD-SIZED KITCHEN LAYOUT IDEA



CONRAD'S LONG, RECTANGULAR KITCHEN LAYOUT IDEA

DESIGN STATEMENT The kitchen, part of an open-plan dining and living area, is one of several designed for a townhouses project in Annandale, in Sydney's Inner West (Elle and husband Jonathan bought the property off the plan). "It was important to create kitchens that are of the space rather than dominating the rooms," Conrad explains. The Caesarstone benchtop was originally specified in Emperadoro, a dark colour of a similar tone to the flooring (which is finished in a black stain), but Elle had always wanted white benchtops so she

contacted Conrad and had the Emperadoro swapped out for Frosty Carrina, a soft ivory white with delicate powdery grey veins. "The benchtop has a sharkstooth profile to give it the slenderest of profiles," Conrad says. The glass splashbacks are in white, and the joinery is gloss polyurethane in Dulux "Vivid White", the same colour as the internal walls and ceilings throughout the rest of the home. "The kitchen isn't an independent design statement," Conrad says. "It works within the living area as an integral part of the space." →

FITTINGS & APPLIANCES



GET CONRAD'S LOOK **OVEN** H2661B built-in (1), \$1999, Miele. **RANGEHOOD** DA2050 Integrated cooker hood (2), \$799, Miele. **COOKTOP** KM2012G Raised gas hob in Stainless Steel (3), \$1099, Miele. **DISHWASHER** G4220SCi (4), \$1399, Miele. **SINK** AFA Exact 792 under/inset double, \$880 (5), Reece. **TAP** Teknobili "Oz T4" sink mixer in Chrome (6), \$170, Reece. For stockists, see page 215.



ARTWORKS ADD CHARACTER TO KITCHENS

Warm woods

The Perfect Pieces "Gloucester" extendable dining table can seat up to 12. Teamed with La Maison "Croix" dining chairs, the setting is the perfect counterpoint to the high gloss of the joinery and flooring. The Meizai "Classic" round mirror balances the angular lines of the room.

User friendly

Sleek, handle-free cupboards and drawers have soft-close mechanisms. Everyday glassware and tea towels are stored close to the sink and dishwasher. The pure white glass splashback is super-easy to clean.



Traditional touches

Elle arranges her Wedgwood Vera Wang "Infinity" cutlery over linens to help balance out the modern feel of the kitchen.

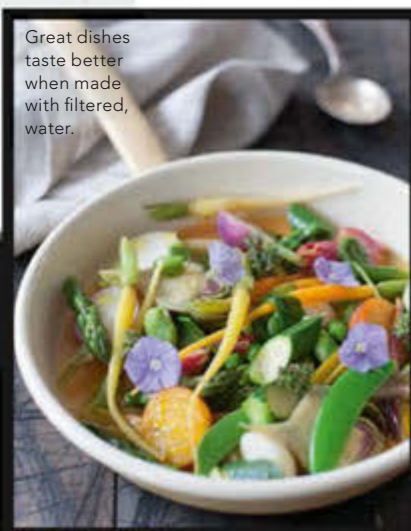


GOING TO PLAN Buying a home off the plan generally means you are saddled with the surfaces chosen by the architect or designer whether you like them or not. But serendipitously, in the case of this townhouse, the specifications set by architect Conrad Lowry were exactly what homeowners Elle and Jonathan were after. The only special requests they needed to make was the Caesarstone colour and making sure there was under-bench storage for the microwave. "I hate microwaves on the counter," Elle says. The couple were also able to consult with Conrad on all the appliances, something you often can't do with this kind of property. Even the benchtops are exactly the right height. "I'm average to tall and my husband is tall," Elle says. "Not that he cooks. But he does do dishes!"



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require
quality
ingredients,
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is better
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Gary Mehigan
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taste better
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BRITA 3-Way Filter Tap

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- Filter-change reminder
- Kit includes water filter, all components and a BRITA 3-Way Filter Tap

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In any modern kitchen, having fresh, filtered water of the highest quality at your fingertips is so important – whether you're cooking, entertaining or simply brewing yourself a cuppa. Just ask restaurateur and MasterChef judge Gary Mehigan, who has a BRITA 3-Way Filter Tap at home. "It gives a cleaner, fresher flavour that improves the taste, aroma and quality of water, tea and coffee."

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there's no need to drill into your benchtop – it simply replaces your existing tap. With one lever for filtered water and another for unfiltered hot/cold, you'll have filtered water whenever you need it most.

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An elegant built-in BRITA 3-Way Filter Tap adds a wonderfully European touch to your kitchen. The filter is tucked from view beneath the sink to provide filtered water for six months, a convenient sensor lets you know when it's time to replace – with easy to change filters available from all good hardware and electrical stores.

VISIT BETTERWITHBRITA.COM FOR EXCLUSIVE GARY MEHIGAN RECIPES, VIDEOS AND EBOOK.

Sleek style

Storage in this bathroom was designed to be visually simple so as not to fight with the dramatic wall tiles and vanity.

AQUA MARINE

As this design proves, the bathroom is the ideal space to **go wild with creativity**

"FIXTURES WERE SELECTED FOR THEIR TIMELESS SIMPLICITY"
– ARCHITECT SCOTT WESTON



Perfect union

With such bold wall tiles, it was important that the fixtures – from Reece and Rogerseller – be simple. →

On show
Owner Michelle loves to display vignettes including plants on the vanity.



INSPIRATION

"THE INSPIRATION FOR THE BATHROOM WERE THESE ARTISANAL GLAZED FISH SCALE TILES OF BLUE AND GREEN," SCOTT SAYS. "THE IDEA WAS TO COCOON THE ENTIRE SPACE IN FLOOR-TO-CEILING TILES OF BLUE AND GREEN GLAZES. THEN WE DISCOVERED THE JAPANESE CONCAVE BLUE-GREEN TILES AND THEY WERE THE PERFECT FIT."

MATERIALS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
Inspirations: Laminex Colour Palette **panel** in Infinity (background), from \$231.27 (excluding installation and fabrication costs) for 2400mm x 1200mm panel, Laminex; and handmade Fish Scale **tiles** in various colours (130mm x 120mm each), \$690 a sq m, Academy Tiles. Inax "Arc" AC1 mosaic **wall tile** in Green (48mm x 23mm), \$294.80 a sq m, Artedomus. **Quartz surface** (for benchtop and shower), from \$450 a sq m (installed), SmartStone. Madison Jar **candle** in French Pear, \$39.95, Ecoya. Dulux Once flat **paint** in Ceiling White, \$73.95 for 4L. Turquoise **soap** rock, \$25, Koskela.

SCOTT WESTON

DIRECTOR Scott Weston Architecture*Design. Swad.com.au



MEET SCOTT, an architect who runs a multi-award-winning design practice in Sydney, which embraces architectural, interior and graphic design projects. After Scott graduated from the University of Technology, Sydney, he spent two years abroad. While on scholarships in Rome and the UK he studied at the Royal College of Art, London. Scott established his company in 1997 and is known, along with colleague Gregory Phillips, for a having flair for dramatic architectural concepts based on a rigorous set of design rules.

DESIGN STATEMENT "The clients both wanted slightly different outcomes so we created a classic feel in timber veneer and overlaid with a rock chick sensibility of concealed saturated colour, patterned wall and ceiling tiles complemented with rich marble and bronze finishes. The luxurious

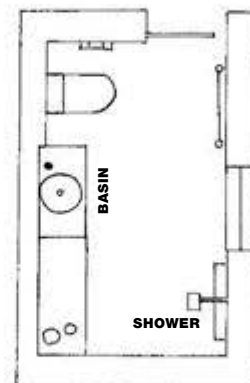
proportions are reinforced by full-height mosaic tiles, a floor-to-ceiling heated towel rail and lack of obvious separation between room and shower zone. Fixtures, such as shower and basin mixers and wall-hung toilet pan, were selected for their timeless simplicity and luxurious feel," Scott says. →

FITTINGS & APPLIANCES



GET SCOTT'S LOOK (1) Kreoo "Nabhi Bowl No. 4" marble **washbasin** in Emperador Dark, \$3274, Quorum Furniture. (2) Fukasawa **wall mixer** in Chrome (329552), \$795, Rogerseller. (3) Hydrotherm "Milan" floor-to-ceiling heated **towel rail**, \$1699, Reece. (4) Sfera complete wall-hung **toilet pan** and standard **seat**, \$875 each, Rogerseller. (5) Waterose "Spin Soft Square" 200mm **shower rose** in Chrome, \$455, Rogerseller. For stockists, see page 215.

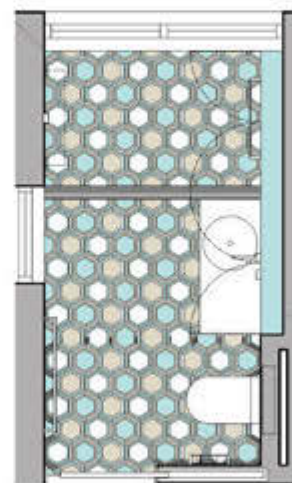
ACTUAL FLOORPLAN



ALTERNATIVE FLOORPLANS



SCOTT'S SMALL BATHROOM LAYOUT IDEA IN MODEL FORM



SCOTT'S LARGE BATHROOM LAYOUT IDEA



Up the wall

A floor-to-ceiling heated towel rail from Rogerseller provides lots of hanging space but barely takes up any room.



Modern design

The wall-hung toilet with hidden cistern gives the space a contemporary look.

"WE WANTED A DRAMATIC UPDATE"

Cool contrast

A dark brown Smartstone bench with a Kreoo "Nhabi Bowl No 4" marble basin in Emperador Dark and vitrified floor tiles from Calibre Concepts are an earthy contrast to the blue and green wall tiles.

THE BATHROOM When Michelle and Robert Coppola briefed architect Scott Weston on their bathroom makeover, they asked for a dramatic update with unusual tiles – and he certainly delivered! "The walls have a three-dimensional tactile effect and the room as a whole is well proportioned," Michelle says. The mix of materials is a little "rock star", as Scott puts it – a chocolatey brown composite-stone benchtop and marble basin layered over those marine-hued tiles – but the layout is functional perfection, tailored to every member of the Coppola family. "The hand shower is brilliant for washing the dog, who can then exit straight out through the lower section of the bathroom window," Michelle says. It's a bathroom packed with personality, over which Michelle likes to layer her own decorative touch. "The long bench is a perfect display area for seasonal flowers from my garden and I like to throw down a beautiful mat from our shop, Coppola Home." ●

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Trend Report

Powder Room

It's the best of the bathroom minimised. The perfect powder room focuses on style and sophistication with the clever use of compact fittings and fixtures. It's all about creating the illusion of space. You want to create the right interplay of function, performance and design, balanced with stunning decorative touches.

To see more emerging trends visit
www.reece.com.au/trends

1

2

3

*Creating the
illusion of space.*

The best of the bathroom minimised.

9

4

5

6

7

8

1 Omvivo Venice 750 Wall Hung Vanity Unit and Venice 450 Counter Basin

2 Kado Aspect 330 Solid Wall Basin

3 Laufen mimo Shelf 450

4 Alape WT 400 Round Washstand

5 LAUFEN ILBAGNOALESSI One Freestanding Basin

6 Teknobili Loop Wall Basin Mixer Set WELS 5 star, 6 L/min

7 Hideaway + Rectangle In Wall Cistern Buttons Chrome

8 AXA Quattro Wall Hung Pan WELS 4 star, 4.5/3 L/Flush, 3.3 Av L/Flush

9 Mizu Soothe 500 Wall Hung Vanity Unit

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Warrawong | harveynorman.com.au

ACT Harvey Norman Bathroom & Tiles, Fyshwick | harveynorman.com.au

VIC E&S Trading, Moorabbin, Essendon, Geelong, Blackburn & Chadstone | estrading.com.au

SA Routleys Bathroom Kitchen Laundry, Adelaide | routleysonline.com.au

WA Galvin Design, Perth | galvindesign.com.au

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BUYER'S GUIDE

Cool fridges, hot baths, adorable accessories... We've rounded up the **hottest kitchen and bathroom looks** for you... →

[KITCHEN BUYER'S GUIDE]

C O N T E M P O R A R Y C O O L

Modern take

Glossy white cabinetry contrasts with a textural splashback and two types of timber for a fresh but warm vibe. Kitchen designed by C+M Studio.

Busy bee

Carrara Bianco hexagon mosaic **tiles**, \$35.48 a sheet, Beaumont Tiles. 300mm x 300mm.

Light as a cloud

Enoki "Cumulus" **pendant light** in White, from \$570, The Design Hunter. 55cm x 46cm.

◇ splurge

Precious time

Menu marble wall **clock** in White/Brass, \$550, Norsu Interiors. 30cm diameter.

Sink in

Acquello reversible single fireclay **sink** in White, \$1150, The English Tapware Company. 61cm x 46cm x 25cm.

Sassy chic

Milli "Axon" **sink mixer** with Black outlet (2252098), \$600, Reece. WELS 5*

Curvy luxe

Icon **sink mixer** in Matt Black (A69.08), \$595, Astra Walker. WELS 5*

Floor exercise

Hardwood Plus G5 1-strip **timber flooring** in Tasmanian Oak, from \$98 (supply only), Choices Flooring. 2.13m x 1.36m x 13.5mm.

Natural glory

C H. Skjalm P. "Bidasar" marble **platter** in Brown, \$79, Designstuff. 40cm x 15cm.

Retro hint

Smeg "FAB28RBV" 271L **refrigerator** in Black Velvet, \$5190, Smeg. Energy efficiency Class A+.

Silver lining

Thermoseal **double oven** (DOSFA38X), \$3290, Smeg. 88.4cm x 59.7cm x 56.7cm.

Practical bliss

Franke 2-bowl inset **sink** in Black, \$725, Masters Home Improvement. 1.19m x 51cm.

Five ways

77cm 5-burner **cooktop** (KM2334G), \$1999, Miele.

[KITCHEN BUYER'S GUIDE] TRADITIONAL TWIST

Over the range
110cm wallmount
rangehood
(KSE110AP9),
\$2650, Smeg.

Cosy cooking

A charming
cooker and
wall-mounted
plate rack
suggest
old-fashioned
goodness!

Laminate luxe
Kaboodle Kitchen
lamine **benchtop** in
Black Granite, \$120,
Bunnings. 1.2m x 60cm.

Tea time

Aluminium 3L **kettle**,
\$307, The AGA Shop
Australia.

At your service

Morten oak **utensils**
in Natural, \$39.95 for set
of 3, Country Road.

Dark metal

Oliveri single-bowl **sink**
in Gunmetal (OSO1GM),
\$1164, The Good Guys.
54cm x 44cm x 17.4cm.

Classic beauty
Glittran kitchen **mixer**
tap in Black, \$179,
Ikea. WELS 6*

Hand-screenprinted
Aura by Tracie Ellis
"Crosses" **napkins**
in Smoke (50cm), \$34.95
for 4, Aura Home.

Lofty heights
Adjustable industrial
stool, \$249, West
Elm. 65cm high;
timber/steel.

Aesthetic appeal

Purist **tap set** in
Rose Gold, \$659,
Kohler. WELS 5*

Fridge of steel

Top-mount 475L **refrigerator**
in Stainless Steel (HTMR480SS),
\$899, Haier. Energy 2.5*

◇ *splurge*

Cast-iron beauty
S-Series Six-Four Classic
cooker in Standard
Cream, \$13,750,
The AGA Shop Australia.
98.4cm x 91cm x 62cm. →

[KITCHEN BUYER'S GUIDE] INDUSTRIAL POP

Character mix
Designer pieces blend with rustic finishes for a colourful, unique and interesting space.



Bit o' fun
Alessi "Anna G" **corkscrew** in Black, \$73, Peter's Of Kensington.

Bright white
Johnson ceramic **wall tiles** in White Gloss, \$26.28 for 30, Bunnings. 200mm x 200mm.

Shadow play
Brokis "Shadows" **pendant lights** in Black Opaque, \$2595 for set of 5, Huset.

Concrete look
Cementina glazed porcelain rectified **floor tile** in Light Grey Matte, \$65 a sq m, Domayne. 600mm x 600mm.

Double up
Eurodomo "Seville" 1.5-bowl inset **sink** in Stainless Steel, \$367, Masters Home Improvement. 1.03m x 51cm.

Slick blitz
Boss **blender**, \$999, Breville.

Cool customer
Haier top-mount 224L **refrigerator** in Satina (HRF224FS), \$529, The Good Guys. Energy 2.5*

Green dream
Steel "Ascot" **oven** in Verde, from \$5990, Arisit.

In shape
The Matt Blatt Replica Eames "DSR" plastic **side chair** in Teal, \$69, Matt Blatt.

Vintage soul
Black Beach recycled oregon **dining table**, \$1499, Plank & Trestle. 1.8m x 1m x 75cm.

Detachable spray
Finlay & Smith **sink mixer** with spring spray, \$209, Masters Home Improvement. WELS 5*

[KITCHEN BUYER'S GUIDE]

NATURAL SCANDI

Heading north

Crisp white walls contrast with warm timber cabinetry and flooring for a smart, Scandinavian look. Kitchen designed by Clare Cousins Architects.

◇ *splurge*

Modern industrial

Concrete & Wood **pendant lights**, \$349 each, Country Road. 18cm x 13cm.

Gleaming touch

Icon **sink mixer** in Copper (A69.08.V2), \$761, Astra Walker. WELS 5*

Light texture

Classico **benchtop** in Ice Snow, \$500 a sq m (installed), Caesarstone.

Simple style

Franke "Impact" granite single **sink** with drainer in Polar White (2401861), \$849.99, Reece. 97cm x 50cm.

Attractive practical

Freestanding/built-in 60cm **dishwasher** in Black (DWA315B), \$1650, Smeg. WELS 6*

High on life

Rex/Lozenge **stool**, from \$390, Tuckbox. 65cm high; different colours available.

Shake it up

Laminate **benchtop** in Milkshake, \$235, Kaboodle Kitchen. 2.25m x 60cm.

Timber lining

Structural CD **plywood**, \$46 a sheet, Bunnings. 2.4m x 1.2m x 12mm.

Timeless design

Filter **tap** in Silver (WD3030), \$449, Brita. WELS 6*

On trend

Wire **trivets** in Copper, \$24.95 for 2, Domayne Online.

Eleven functions

Pyrolytic 60cm built-in **oven** (OB60SL11DEPX1), \$2599, Fisher & Paykel.

Deep bowl

Principal 1-bowl inset **sink** with drainer, \$595, Masters Home Improvement. 80.5cm x 45cm. →

Cool baby

3-door French-door 635L **refrigerator** in Stainless Steel (HTD635WISS), \$2099, Haier. Energy 2.5*

[BATHROOM BUYER'S GUIDE]

B L E A C H E D B E A C H Y



Pump the jam

Moxie **showerhead** in Polished Chrome with built-in wireless speaker, \$199, Kohler. 1.5-watt speaker; WELS 3*



Storage on the side

Rågrund **mirror** in Bamboo, \$39.99, Ikea. 53cm x 50cm.



Beaut basin

Elm Sanitaryware bench-mounted **washbasin** (A95.98.50), \$695, Astra Walker. 50cm x 38cm.



♥ splurge

Timber feature

Modulnova solid teak **basin**, \$4174, The Nest 45. 70cm x 35cm x 14cm.

Nice & natural

Davines "Naturaltech Nourishing" **shampoo**, \$35.95 for 250mL, Hairjamm.



Rope rest

Anaesthetic Design "Mariner" **barstool** in American White Oak, \$510, Urban Couture. 55cm high.



Ocean treatment

Natural textures, light timbers and simple Scandinavian designs for a relaxed retreat.



Fruity cluster

Cherry **pendants** in Natural Ash, \$130 each, The Minimalist. Pendants are magnetic.



In the grain

Structural **plywood**, \$46, Bunnings. 2.4m x 1.2m x 12mm.

Sophisticated grey

Alto Nero sealed polished porcelain **tiles**, from \$53.50 a sq m, Beaumont Tiles. 600mm x 600mm.



Stash & stow

Förhöja **box set** in Birch, \$19.99 for 4 pieces, Ikea. Set includes 3 boxes and 1 lid/tray.



Striking shape

Laufen "Kartell" 1760 freestanding **bath**, \$9950, Reece. 250L capacity; 54cm x 76cm x 1.76m.



Basket case

Vivid large **basket** in Natural, \$69.95, Freedom. 39cm high.



Rustic roll

Svartsjön **toilet roll holder** in Black, \$4.99, Ikea.



Shine on

Icon **wall set** in Chrome (A69.05), \$418, Astra Walker.

[BATHROOM BUYER'S GUIDE] RAW MONOCHROME

Concrete cool
 PENDANTS FROM LEFT
 Danish Grey **Concrete**,
 \$299, Urban Couture. Lucci
 Décor "Koofer" in **Sable**,
 \$229, Beacon Lighting.

Wire reflections
 Form Us With Love wall-
 mounted **mirror** in Black,
 \$189.95, The Minimalist.
 50cm x 38cm x 11cm.

Geo shape
 Ferm Living **toilet roll holder**
 in Black, \$58, Designstuff.

Wheel me around
 Hjälmaren **trolley** in
 Black-Brown, \$99, Ikea.
 80cm high.

◇ style piece

Recycled timber
 Saint Tropez **stool**, \$199,
 Dare Gallery. 75cm high.

Dark & handsome
 A striking black bath and
 dark accessories create
 a sleek masculine mood.

Moorish marble
 Giallo Antico honed marble
slab, \$407 a sq m,
 Arterdomus.

Floor & walls
 FROM TOP Patch "84126"
 porcelain **tiles** (225mm),
 \$79.60, Academy Tiles. Mono
 hexagonal mosaic **tiles** in
 Black, from \$8.25 each,
 Beaumont Tiles.

Dark design
 Acquello single fireclay
sink in Black, \$1395, The
 English Tapware Company.
 60cm x 46cm x 25cm.

Sleek look
 Metropolis **basin**
mixer in Matt Black
 (A76.02), \$519, Astra
 Walker. WELS 6*



WANT MORE?
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 and scan this page to see
 more beaut buys.

Monochrome soak
 Kado "Lure" 1755 freestanding
 oval **bath** in Black, \$2274,
 Reece. 190L capacity;
 1.75m x 87.5cm x 58cm. →

[BATHROOM BUYER'S GUIDE]
C R I S P C L A S S I C

Material mix
Ambient **pendant light** in Off White, \$259, Citta Design. 35cm diameter.

Make an entrance
Ferm Living "Enter" **mirror**, \$149, Designstuff. 26cm diameter.

Minimal look
Sussex "Pol" **toilet roll holder** in Black, \$129, Reece.

Squeaky clean
Olive oil **soap**, \$11, Lightly.

Check mate
Check **bath towel** in Mint, \$49.95, Aura by Tracie Ellis.

Round about
Chalice countertop **basin**, \$235, Kohler. 42cm diameter.

Corking design
Smed **stool** in Mint, \$795, Great Dane Furniture. 70cm high.

Hang or sit
Rågrund **towel rack/ chair** in Bamboo, \$49.99, Ikea. 1.4m high.

Feels like rain
Liano "Nexus" rain **shower head** in Matte Black, \$320.30, and **shower arm**, \$157.50, Caroma. WELS 2*

Basic beauties
Bevel **wall tiles** in White, \$72, Academy Tiles. 75mm x 150mm.

White out
Touches of timber and living greenery soften the all-white palette, as does a textural towel. Bathroom designed by C+M Studio.

Bag it!
Paper **bag** in Sage, \$24, Uashmama. Plant not included.

Faux real
Marble Tiles **wallpaper**, \$69 a sq m, Rebel Walls.

Spot on
Muuto "The Dots" **wall hooks** in Oak, \$169 for 5, Surrounding.

Elegant edge
Axor Citterio "E" **basin mixer**, \$1065, Hansgrohe. No WELS rating yet.

* designer plunge

Handsome pair
Icon **wall set with mixer** in Matt Black (A69.05.48), \$648, Astra Walker. WELS 5*

Classic curve
Victoria + Albert "Barcelona" freestanding **bath**, \$5900, Domayne. 1.78m x 87cm x 55.4cm. For stockists, see page 215. o



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PRIZE #3
Win 1 of 2 **Nespresso Breville Citiz&milk coffee machines** in Chrome, valued at \$399 each. Breville.com.au



PRIZE #5
Win 1 of 4 **Breville Smart Waffle Pro 2-slice waffle machines**, valued at \$199.95 each. Breville.com.au



PRIZE #4
Win 1 of 6 x **Lodge cast-iron skillets** (26cm), valued at \$74 each. Haleimports.com.au

PRIZE #6
Win 1 of 8 **Jean Dubost Laguiole 3-piece cheese sets** valued at \$82 each, from Tableking. Tableking.com.au



PRIZE #7
Win **\$2000 worth of Raymor bathroom product** of your choice from Tradelink. Tradelink.com.au; Raymor.com.au



PRIZE #8
Win 1 of 5 **Sora chef's knives** (15cm), valued at \$120 each. Haleimports.com.au



PRIZE #9
Win 1 of 4 **Panasonic NN-DS592B steam combi microwaves**, valued at \$769 each. Panasonic.com.au



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GET YOUR TECHNIQUE RIGHT

tantalising tiles

Interior design expert **Jacinta Preston** reveals her secrets to great decorating

FIRE UP YOUR imagination, tiles are trending! Tessellated, Marrakech, subway, penny round, Turkish, tumble, mosaic, hex, granite, slate, sandstone, travertine, porcelain, marble, mirror... and the list goes on. There are just so many design possibilities with tiles. In fact, they're now completely off-the-wall in terms of style – **modern tiles embrace imitation textures** and can resemble, fabric, wood, leather, glass and paper, and they are even available in 3D shapes. Not only do they look great, tiles can be a very **cost-effective** way to decorate your home, particularly in high-traffic areas and moisture-rich environments.

FAB FEATURES Modern tile designs can look like artworks, even floor carpets and area rugs. Tiles are becoming as decorative as wallpaper, and we can't seem to get enough of the colour, texture, pattern, and scale opportunity. Tiles are the new black (seriously!).

GET YOUR GROUT RIGHT Grout simply locks tiles tight, keeping water out and bonding the tiles together preventing the edges from chipping and cracking. It helps control the functionality and durability of tiles and plays a major role in day-to-day maintenance and the overall longevity of your tile. **Grout divides and frames tiles**, and can highlight individual tile shapes or patterns. Grout is a whole other design decision so, please, give it the consideration it deserves.

There are three approaches when it comes to **choosing grout colour**:

1. Matching grout – matching the grout colour to the tile colour

IRRESPECTIVE OF YOUR CHOSEN TILE AND LAY, NEVER ASSUME A ROOM IS PERFECTLY SQUARE. ALSO, MAKE SURE YOUR TILER MIXES TILES FROM A FEW DIFFERENT BOXES TO ENSURE COLOUR VARIATIONS BLEND SEAMLESSLY.

makes the grout lines less pronounced and therefore the tile itself is accentuated. This is the best option if you have over-the-top beautiful tiles with a basic layout. **2. Contrasting grout** – a contrasting grout colour and tile colour will emphasize both the pattern and layout of the tiles, rather than the tile itself. **3. Neutral grout** – a light, neutral grout produces a look somewhere in between matching and contrast.

PICK A PATTERN Tile patterns can change the look of your room. The “**straight lay**” is probably the most common of all patterns – it's simple, clean and modern, and really lets the tiles do the talking. The “**running bond or brick pattern**” – think subway tiles – is a great pattern for hiding imperfections, as are mosaics and penny rounds. The “**diagonal lay**”, where tiles are set on a 45-degree angle, helps to make a space feel larger, as well as adding interest to an otherwise neutral scheme. Finally, the “**herringbone pattern**” can look both modern and vintage, like a beautiful parquet floor. **o**

Feature tile
Mayolica, \$133.95 for set of 2 sheets (sheet measures 25cm x 75cm), Amber Tiles.

Holiday mode
Spanish Villa reproduction in **Midnight Blue**, \$165 a sq m, Jatana Interiors.

Blue hues
Melograno Architetto in **Random Mix 4**, \$32 for set of 4, Di Lorenzo.

Intricate detail
I Gattipardi Fabrizio, \$185 a sq m, Di Lorenzo.

Optical illusion
Urban Diamond reproduction, \$165 a sq m, Jatana Interiors. For stockists, see page 215.

BEAT PHONE BILL SHOCK Be sure to **turn your data roaming setting off**. This tells your phone not to connect to data networks that are outside your home network, helping you avoid those hefty data roaming charges. The method varies depending on your handset model and carrier, but if you have an iPhone, for example, you go to Settings > Cellular > Data Roaming and slide to Off. For the best international roaming offers, visit Whistleout.com.au

EFFIE SAYS

Money moves to make

Money magazine's **Effie Zahos** on the best ways to plan your finances

SAVINGS & INTEREST

COMPARING TERM DEPOSIT RATES With interest rates on term deposits down, it pays to know the difference between **effective rates** and **nominal rates**. "Nominal" interest rates only tell part of the story. It's the effective rate that really matters. The effective rate is based on how frequently interest is paid – either monthly, semi-annually, annually or on maturity. More frequent payments provide higher earnings as the interest has the opportunity to compound to a higher amount. But be careful, not all deposits that pay interest before maturity will compound the interest – so when it comes to choosing the best term deposit rates make sure you understand when and how interest is paid.

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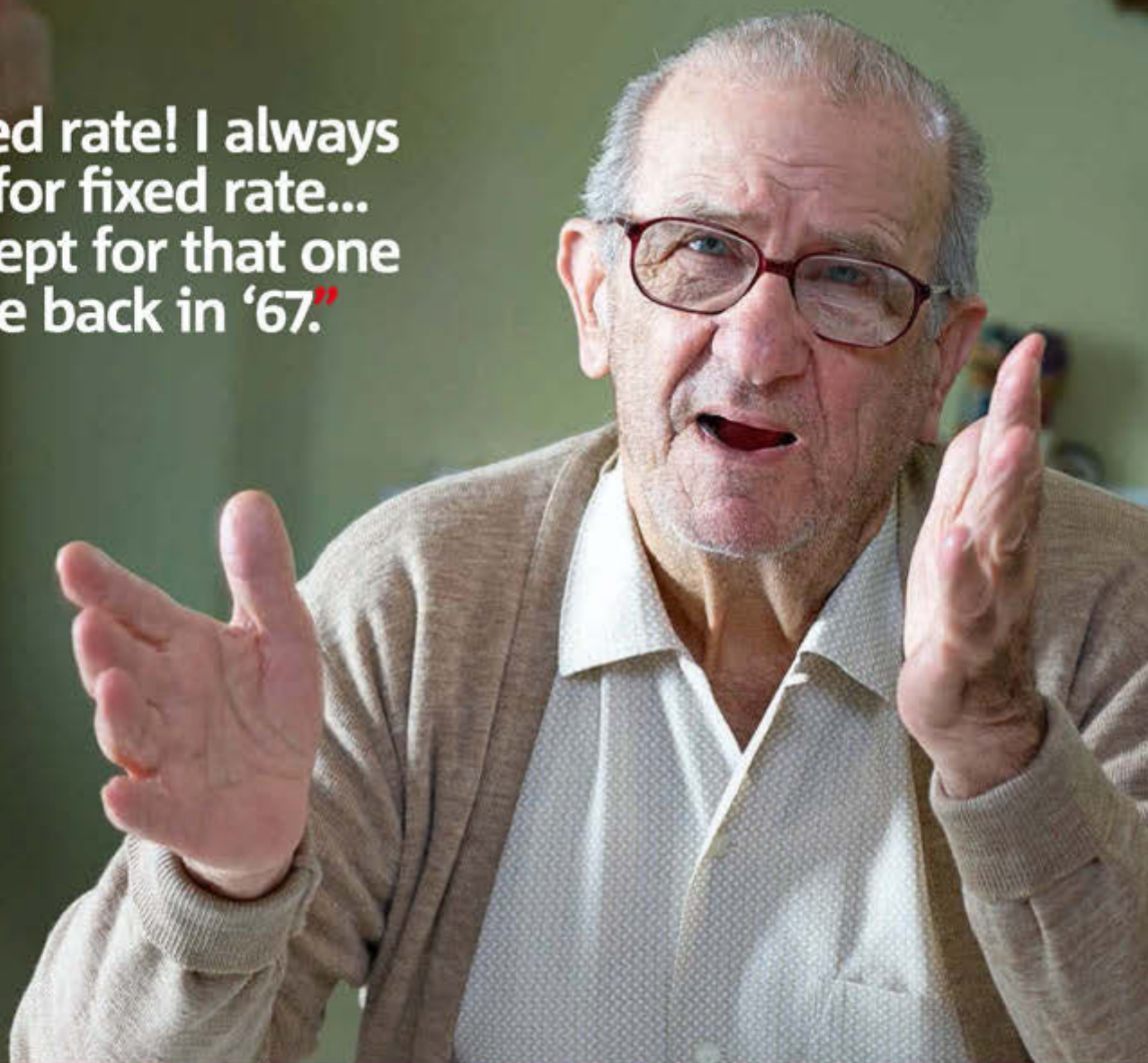
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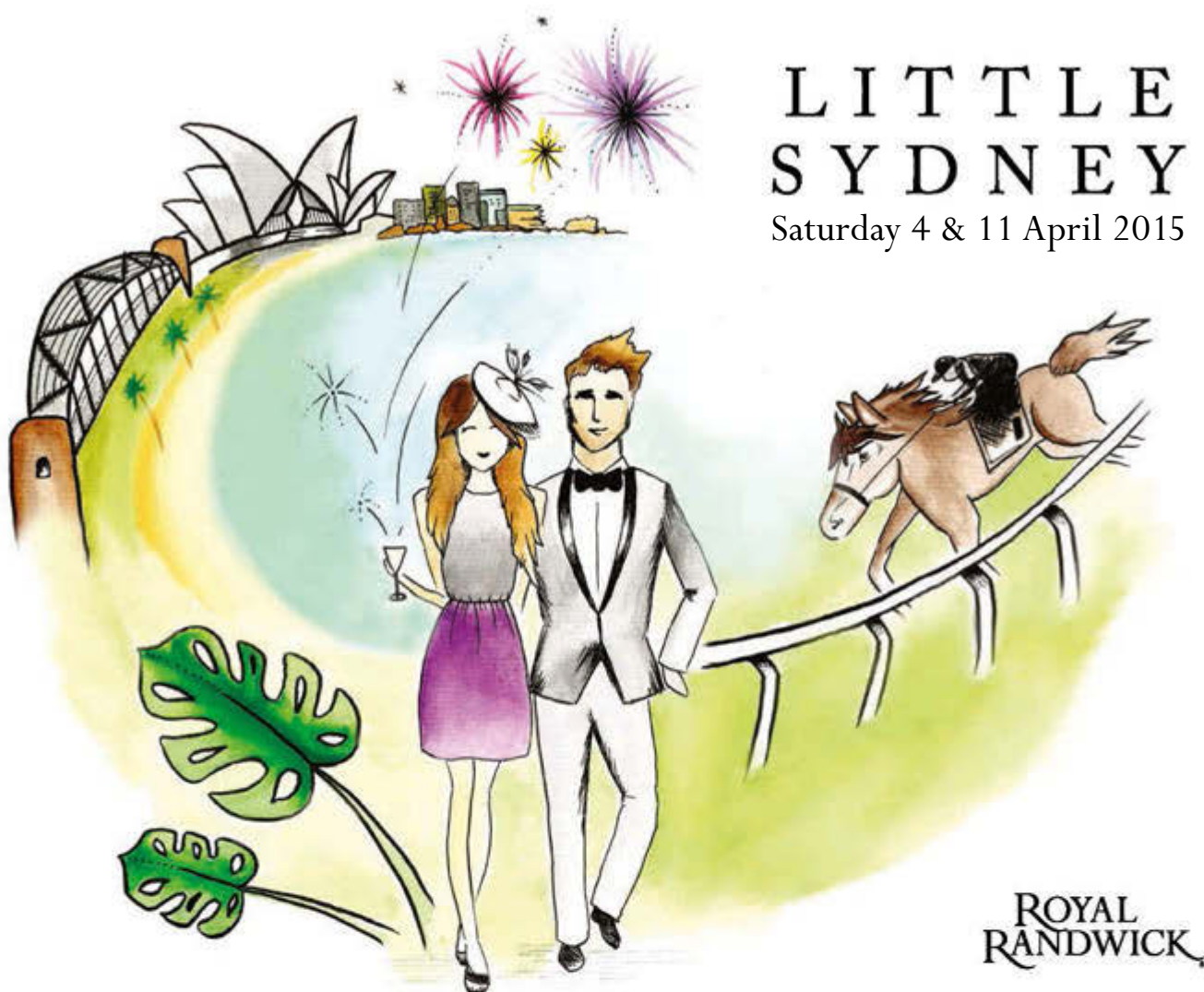
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cool STUFF

This month's roundup of
super-duper products for
your home and lifestyle



TOP ROW FROM LEFT **Shiro Blanco** Available in anthracite or white, the NAYA8S sink delights with its impressive design and clear aesthetics, offering comfort and style in every kitchen; Blanco-australia.com **Kohler's** multi-award winning Moxie Bluetooth-enabled showerhead streams music, news and podcasts directly into your shower; Kohler.com.au **Weylandts** The Rhino Magic Veld scatter cushion was inspired by explorers. Throw it on your sofa or bed for an instant update, \$145; Weylandts.com **2ND ROW** **Smeg's** new SmartSense Plus induction cooktops feature Surface Share "bridging" zones and Active Surface Controls which illuminate when in operation; Smeg.com.au **Backstreet** is an online homewares store that delivers a range of handpicked beautiful, distinctive and affordable items Australia-wide; Backstreetshopper.com.au **3RD ROW** **Big W** The Luxe Collection sheet set is made with Flexifit technology ensuring the perfect fit for mattresses, \$65 for queen; Bigw.com.au **Wonderful Kitchens** is known for detailed workmanship from Hampton, Provincial to the latest innovations in modern-contemporary kitchen designs; Wonderfulkitchens.com.au **Freedom Furniture** With classic good looks, the Metro table lamp has had a makeover in matte black and marble; Freedom.com.au **BOTTOM ROW** **AGL** Moving home? Call AGL on 1300 245 668 and ask about the AGL Move-in Guarantee; Agl.com.au/move **Oates Cleaning** Your 3-year-old gets hold of the crayons and starts drawing a master piece on your white walls. What do you do? Get out the Oates Ezy Spot Remover, it works like magic! Oates.com.au **Schots Home Emporium** The cool Tilst armchair is constructed using a high-quality wooden frame with solid ash legs stained in a walnut colour; Schots.com.au



cool STUFF

This month's roundup of
super-duper products for
your home and lifestyle



TOP ROW FROM LEFT **Bed Bath N' Table** Transform your home with the beautiful new range of cushions and throws. Combine colour, pattern and texture for an easy update to your living space; Bedbathntable.com.au **Choices Flooring** There's no better feeling than sinking your feet into wool carpet. Perfect all year round, discover the natural beauty of Windsor Wool today; Choicesflooring.com.au **King** The Cloud II features integrated TouchGlide Technology for effortless reclining and Smart Pockets for swivel tables and reading lamps; Kingliving.com.au **2ND ROW MOR** Opulent floral decadence entwined with the elegance of sweet Vanilla Musk exudes from this exquisite Marshmallow reed diffuser, \$49.95; Morboutique.com **Harvey Norman** With a copper-coloured shade and a matte black body, the Broodie table lamp is perfect for creating a retro look, \$199; Harveynorman.com.au **3RD ROW Haymes** Explore three unique homes, nominate your "Style Crush" and get the chance to win one of three individual styling sessions; Haymespaint.com.au **Howards Storage World's** new hanging range of soft storage is available in a variety of options that can be used with permanent or temporary shelving systems; Hsw.com.au **Keeki** Sophisticated, contemporary furniture and homewares inspiration for your home, including custom-made furniture; Keeki.com.au **BOTTOM ROW Vision Wallcoverings** Transform your home without tearing down your plaster. Brick wallpaper is cost effective and easy to remove, \$80 per roll; Masters.com.au **Zanui** The Phoenix coffee table imparts stylish design into your space with natural timber and metallic highlights, \$329; Zanui.com.au **Domayne** Dine in style every single day with the beautifully sleek and ultra-contemporary Studio range; Domayne.com.au

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trends



JUNGLE CHIC

Foliage prints and French-colonial influences for a **relaxed oasis**



TOP ROW FROM LEFT Dolev Easy **armchair**, \$990, Eco Chic. Brilliant "Flinders" **pendant light** in Copper, \$120, Bunnings. **MIDDLE ROW** FROM RIGHT Foliage **succulent garden**, \$49.95, Freedom. Simple Conservatory **dining table**, from \$2850, Mark Tuckey. Porter's Paints **paint swatch** in Blackheath, \$95.10 for 4L. **BOTTOM ROW** FROM LEFT Ethnicraft Tripod **side table**, \$230, Curious Grace. Tan leather **cushion**, \$110, Mr & Mrs White. Welcome To The Jungle **wallpaper**, \$69 a sq m, Rebel Walls. For stockists, see page 215. o

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